

LEAVES Newsletter



THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some of us who spend time on the Riverview Lands have found ourselves in conversation with the Movie or TV industry folks. They have always been very friendly and extremely courteous. I can't help but feel that if any of our patients, (and they are increasing in numbers), are lucky enough as well - it will be an uplifting experience for them.

I hope a few of you cut through Finnie's Garden and actually saw the last TV set-up.

Riverview is the most filmed location in Canada and revenues last year totalled approximately \$1 million. This money helps offset maintenance costs. Yes, I know what some of you are thinking but we have been told that maintenance will improve when BC Housing takes over management in the very near future.

Norma Gillespie

We can't thank our members enough for the way you have come out and supported all the meetings. The third session went reasonably well and it was encouraging to have so many people' speaking up'.

MOVIE / TV PROPS

IN FINNIES GARDEN



Photo by Mary Brown

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online newsletters

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2 or more Newsletters & Update notices a year are published **online**.

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Newsletter editions are also available in print to members by request.

newsletter@rhcs.org

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Riverview - A Significant Historical Site!

by Ken Baker

Historical sites throughout the world have, and always will be one of the primary reasons for international as well as national interest. Having traveled to see many of them I know first hand the magnetic draw to see what "was". The Myan - Tikal of Guatemala, the Incan - Machu Pichu of Peru, the Taj Mahal of India, the Great Wall of China, etc.

Significant ancient historical sites drawing millions of visitors every year. Of course Canada in comparison is a fledgling historical nation but does that make maintaining the historical flavor of what we have any less important? Quite the contrary! It makes it paramount that we fight to hold on to any significant historical site we can. We must demand that our current governing bodies recognize the importance of our history in each and every province and territory of our country. After all how will any of our past accomplishments become valued for their time frame in our history if we erase them and replace them in the blink of an eye! Which is becoming the norm in our increasingly "throw away society".

Globalization of our world has advanced in leaps and bounds, computers control how we live and the pulse of the computer dictates, "Faster is better!" Unfortunately this philosophy now controls much of what we do and is now accepted without much opposition. Where will it end? The pulse of "progress" we are told is not to be stopped! Land developers are quick to remove natural habitat for faster profits, government encourages "rapid" to increase tax base. Historical sites are removed to pave the way for new because it promises a faster return on the buck!

But history isn't about fast, is it? History is about time, long periods of time that have past never to return exactly the same again. History is about people and valuing their memory, valuing their accomplishments in the geological second they had here to make their moment of history. It is about how and what they did and who they were that has helped sculpt who we are now. Our history needs to be preserved, we need to study it, we need to learn from it.



Photo by Ken Baker

We need our history, it is the backbone of who we are as a people, as a nation, as a culture in our world.

The Riverview Lands in Coquitlam, BC is a significant Canadian historical site dating back over 100 years. It is 244 acres in size and contains everything and much more that gives it value to be preserved and restored as a national historic site. It is filled with gems of life, historical and natural. From the masterfully designed botanical garden, the first established in western Canada. Sculpted to evolve within and enhance, the natural west coast rainforest as decades have allowed. Now flourishing with wildlife and bird life unmatched anywhere in metro Vancouver. It contains a flavor of architecture built to compliment individual tree planting designs created in each unique area throughout the entire site. Architectural designs by masters of their craft at each stage of development throughout the 100 year expansion of the hospital. Riverview contained a museum commemorating and honoring the doctors, nurses, and patients who knew this as their place of work, as their community and as their home for a one hundred year span of time. Riverview also contains a cemetery where patients are laid to rest who knew this as their home.

Riverview's 244 acres is a site of significant Canadian history. It must be preserved, there is no other option.

Supporter/Sponsor Renewal Due APRIL - 2015

Pay online or Print Application form



Illustrated Ideas – Did you take your turn to rate the features?

As part of the 3rd open house illustrated ideas were posted online by BC Housing's Renewing Riverview project. The illustrations were a result of a co-design process led by architect and urban designer Stanley King. Four sessions were held between September and November: two public open houses, one session with Kwikwetlem First Nation representatives and one session with post-secondary students.

We were instructed to click on the thumbnails to navigate the rating system. The rating scale was from **'I love it! Go for it!'** to **'Ok idea, but needs more thought'** to **'Belongs elsewhere'**. There were **47 illustrations** in total and it said we may vote on each illustration once.

Originally we were told the online rating would begin October 6, we let our members know this date. When this date passed with no online link we were informed that they would be holding 2 more live open houses. We can only assume this was to receive a different collection of ideas from the 2 original open houses?

The illustrations were finally posted for rating November 19 with a deadline of January 16, 2015. The rating session was removed from their site immediately that night. So if like a lot of people you were busy with the holiday season and did not have time to spend hours going through the illustrations & rating them, you were too late past that date.

Results of the ratings, both the in-person open houses and online rating session, will be available as part of the Final Summary Report from BC Housing - Renewing Riverview. Questions/comments: questions@renewingriverview.com <http://renewingriverview.com>



Our experience with the rating site was very **frustrating**. Some very dedicated members of RHCS took the time to go through all of the images and try to rate them. By the time it was done it had taken at least a couple of hours or more!

We found the illustrations kept moving no matter where we started. It hit a point where it informed us that we were at the end even though we knew we had not seen all of the illustrations. It took a very long time trying to locate the illustrations we knew had not been rated. How many others who were not as familiar with the images ended their rating process before they had seen all of them?

We noticed that often the illustrations that appeared first were from the later open houses. It was the earlier Coquitlam September illustrations we had to go back in to locate.

We also assisted others who are not as web savvy and saw the same thing happening. So we know this was not a one time event.

When BC Housing reports their findings we would very much like to know how many 'INCOMPLETE' ratings they received?

(All visits that only rated some, not all 47 illustrations?)

Our group heard many complaints about the site and process of rating. Exasperated users did not have the time to take part in this process and were overwhelmed with the amount of work involved to rate the illustrations.

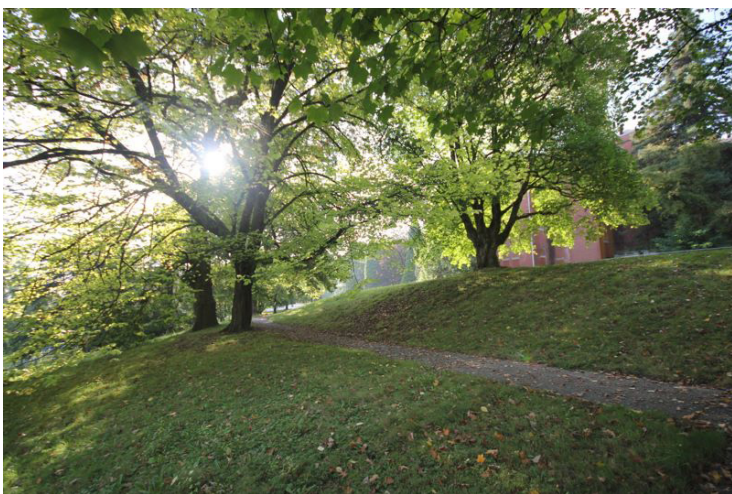


Photo by Gordana Adamovic-Mladenovic

Illustrated Ideas Ratings con't

Continued from Page 3

- We received complaints from frustrated users about the site; the process of rating, the time it took to partake in this process, the work involved to rate the illustrations, the way images bounced around with no apparent sequential order, the lack of a place for comments, the very vague titles or descriptions about the illustrations which allowed for varying interpretations of how to answer.
- MANY felt they had **ALREADY INFORMED** the government about what they wanted to happen at Riverview, in previous open house style presentations held over the past several years, and that they should not have to be subjected to yet another process to be sure they were heard.
- We hope for those people that ALL input from past events, including the (HCP) Heritage Conservation Plan open houses in 2012 and any open houses prior will be encompassed in the 'Final Summary Report'.
- Many supporters felt the HCP had been their opportunity to tell the government what they wanted to happen on the site, NOT just another spirit draining exercise in futility.

Just a few of the Frustrated Supporter comments;

◆ As I was not able to participate in the picture sessions at the third Open House I have spent a lot of time studying the results, and so many comments came to mind that I have enclosed them with this letter. It was obvious to me that some of the respondents had not spent much time on the Lands, and some were not aware of the groundswell of support in this community for retaining mental health facilities there. It will be quite a task to sort out where there is a suitable site for some of the proposed activities, due to the lay of the land, and distances to be covered. MB

◆ I've just discovered the January 16 closing date on the third round of public consultations about Riverview

How unfair. And wrong. It shows either utter incompetence, dodging of responsibilities, or an attempt to pull a fast one on the public -- or maybe all three.

I've been trying to take part in this survey since hearing about it late last summer. I checked into the web for the first advertised date of availability, found the survey web page, and tried to get into it. After long, frustrating minutes unable to log in, I called the number given to find out my mistakes. No one answered, so I left a message.

A woman with good PR skills called back. Yes, I had wasted my time trying to get into the survey, because it wasn't ready yet. Yes, the website should announce this and say that the survey was coming ... sometime, maybe soon. Then she offered to put me on a list of people to contact as soon as the survey was available. I gave her my e-mail address and phone number.

No e-mail came. No phone call. I checked online again in a few weeks. Nothing. Then a few weeks later. Nothing.

You know, some of us have a whole lot of other things to do than dog this file every day. So time passed, including the distractions of December, then rush-rush January catching up and getting into the new year's business. No-mail, post, or phone call about the survey arrived. I assume it was still in the works, until I checked in today.

You must open up this survey again, and you must adequately publicize it. You must honour promises made to contact people about it.

Please get this back on track. You owe the citizens of B.C. at least this much. BG

◆ I had a look at the survey, think I will pass on this one.
I have already submitted my thoughts previously. B

There is concern the government is using this process to manipulate an outcome they wanted from the start of these open houses. We will all be watching very closely how they decide to INTERPRET these sessions.

Port Coquitlam Conservationist Honoured with Wilderness Committee Environmental Award



Congratulations Don!!

Proud you are one of OUR Long Time MEMBERS.
A wonderful Inspiration.



Photos by Ian McArthur

Port Coquitlam conservationist Don Gillespie is the winner of the 2014 Eugene Rogers Environmental Award, for his outstanding volunteer efforts over the past several decades to clear hiking trails into endangered wilderness areas in southwest BC. Since 1992, the Eugene Rogers Award has been presented to individuals recognized by the Wilderness Committee for their exceptional contributions to environmental protection in British Columbia. The award is granted once a year at the Wilderness Committee's Annual General Meeting.

"Don Gillespie is a wonderful example of how effective volunteer work can be at protecting nature and leaving a legacy to future generations," said Wilderness Committee National Campaign Director Joe Foy.

Gillespie, a long-time member of the Burke Mountain Naturalists, began his volunteer trail building on Coquitlam's Burke Mountain three decades ago. He spent many days on Burke Mountain brushing out old logging trails and discovering new vantage points where people could enjoy the stunning views. Many of the area's most popular trails – such as the Woodland Walk and the Coquitlam Lake View Trail – are trails he created.

In 1993, Gillespie helped blaze a hiking route from the Widgeon Valley through the DeBeck, Bull and Boise Creek Valleys north of Pitt Meadows. This entire 38,000-hectare region was eventually preserved as the Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, co-managed by BC Parks and the Katzie First Nation. This park is currently going through a public planning process.

In 1995, Gillespie joined a crew of Wilderness Committee volunteer trail builders to clear a trail through the Elaho Valley, north of Squamish. This area was eventually protected as a provincial conservancy, co-managed by BC Parks and the Squamish Nation.

In 1996, Gillespie was helping to set up a trail building camp on the west side of Flores Island near the village of Ahousaht in Clayoquot Sound. The resulting Wild Side Trail is considered one of the finest on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Then in 2007, Gillespie was hard at work clearing trail on the Ghost Pass Trail east of Hope. The forest along the trail is spotted owl habitat and was in danger of being logged. Thanks in part to the trail building project, the area was eventually protected as a Wildlife Habitat Area, off-limits to logging.

As an original member of the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society with his wife Norma, Don has worked tirelessly on the Riverview site leading backyard/heritage tours, maintaining Finnie's garden, cleaning the site for our many tree tours and Treefests. Thank-you Don for always being there for Riverview and for being an inspiration to us all.

More at the Wilderness Committee site:

https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/press_release/coquitlam_conservationist_honoured_wilderness_committee_environmental_award

**RHCS
Executive****PRESIDENT**

Norma Gillespie
norma@rhcs.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Donna Crosby
donna@rhcs.org

SECRETARY

Donna Crosby
donna@rhcs.org

TREASURER

Murray Clare
murray@rhcs.org

DIRECTORS at LARGE

Val Adolph, Rod Akester, Ken Baker, Fred
Bennett, Mary Brown, Laura Dupont,
Jenny Farley, Teri Madaisky, Ludy Moysiuk
**COMMUNICATION & CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE**

Ludy, Teri, John & Ken
info@rhcs.org

**TREES, TREE TOURS & HERITAGE
COMMITTEE**

Mary, Norma, Fred, Jenny, Val
norma@rhcs.org mary@rhcs.org

**TREEFEST COMMITTEE**

Donna, Mary, Carole, Teri,
donna@rhcs.org

FRIENDS of FINNIES

Don, Norma, Kiyoshi
norma@rhcs.org

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER

Teri Madaisky
teri@rhcs.org

?? STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ??

Norma, Donna, Mary
norma@rhcs.org

LEAVES Newsletter**EDITOR**

Teri Madaisky

PROOFREADERS

Donna, Norma, Mary,

CONTRIBUTORS

Norma G, Ken B,
Wilderness Committee

DISTRIBUTION

Norma, Mary, Donna, Teri

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Gordana Adamovic-Mladenovic,
Ken Baker, Ian McArthur,
Mary B.

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Editorial email:

newsletter@rhcs.org

RHCS

Riverview Horticultural
Centre Society
P.O. Box 64616,
RPO Como Lake
Coquitlam, BC
V3J 7V7

Phone: 604-290-9910

Email: trees@rhcs.org

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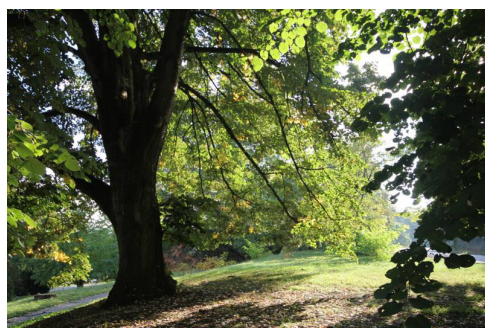
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**Starting Soon****TREE TOURS 2015****2015 Tree Tour Schedule**

March 22	Sunday	1 pm	First TREE TOUR of 2015
April 19	Sunday	1 pm	Earth Sunday TREE TOUR
May 3	Sunday	1 pm	Heritage WALK - Mental Health Week ^{BMN & RHCS}
May 10	Sunday	1 pm	Mother's Day TREE TOUR
June 14	Sunday	1 pm	Backyard WALK - BMN
June 21	Sunday	1 pm	Aboriginal Day/Father's Day TREE TOUR
July 5	Sunday	1 pm	Linden TREE TOUR (1)
July 16	Thursday	7:30 pm	Linden TREE TOUR (2) & TEA
August 9	Sunday	1 pm	Catalpa TREE TOUR
August 23	Sunday	1 pm	Heritage WALK - BMN & RHCS ^{possible bus w/parallel walk}
September 19	Saturday	11am-4pm	TREEFEST 2015
September 27	Sunday	1 pm	National Forest Week TOUR - RHCS
October 4	Sunday	1 pm	Last TREE TOUR - last tour of 2015

All walks start at the HEY building at 1 pm unless stated otherwise.



Photos by Gordana Adamovic-Mladenovic