

LEAVES Newsletter



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online newsletters

Save a tree; View our newsletters online!

4 newsletters a year are published **online**.

The Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter newsletters will be posted on our website in pdf format. A direct link will be sent in an email.

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

newsletter@rhcs.org

Please email us your email address so we can let you know when the latest Newsletter is available online for viewing!

Your email address will be used only to inform you of RHCS news, we will not share your address.

Participate in the Provincial Election before and on May 14, 2013

The Provincial Government, which manages the Riverview Lands on behalf of the people of British Columbia, will propose a Land Use Plan for Riverview in the near future. We encourage our members to participate in the Provincial election and to ask their candidates about their positions regarding the future uses of the Riverview Lands.

The following All Candidates Meetings are opportunities for members to ask their candidates about Riverview. Other meetings will be advertised in the local newspapers (NOW; Tri-City News). Riverview is in the Coquitlam-Maillardville riding. We also list nearby ridings because Riverview is especially important for all Tri-Cities residents.

Coquitlam-Maillardville Riding

- Tuesday, April 30, 7 pm; Best Western Plus Inn and Convention Centre, 319 North Road, Coquitlam

Coquitlam-Burke Mountain Riding

- Monday, April 29, 7 pm; Douglas College, David Lam Campus Theatre, A1470-1250 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam.
- Wednesday, May 1, 7 pm; Summit Community Centre, West side of Summit Middle School, 1450 Parkway Blvd, Coquitlam

Port Coquitlam Riding

- Thursday, May 9, 7 pm; PoCo Inn and Suites Hotel and Conference Centre, 1545 Lougheed Highway, Port Coquitlam

Port Moody-Coquitlam Riding

- Tuesday, May 7, 7 pm; Port Moody Inlet Theatre, 100 Newport Drive, Port Moody

AGM Announcement!

EVERYONE is WELCOME

Please come join us for Our

Annual General Meeting

Thursday June 6, 2013 at 7:30 pm

Cottage 103, Riverview Hospital

call for more info: 604-290-9910

- Cottage 103 is in Doctors Row on the highest road on the lands.
- It's the last cottage on the south end of the grounds.
- Cottages are marked on signage down below at intersection.
- Look for Riverview Horticultural Centre Society banner !!

Finnie's Garden Threatened

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society (RHCS) is distressed about what is happening at Finnie's Garden. Since 2001 RHCS/ Friends of Finnies have spent hundreds of volunteer hours every year rehabilitating the **Naturescape** garden & surrounding natural areas. Someone is undoing their work.

Volunteers from RHCS have been finding damage to Finnie's Garden where they have worked years protecting and restoring the native flora and fauna. It appears someone has been ripping out the native plants and shrubs and replanting non native plants without the permission of RHCS who continue to be the stewards of this garden and lands, thus damaging the environment in the process. It is unfortunate when members of the public damage our natural areas.



by George Reamsbottom

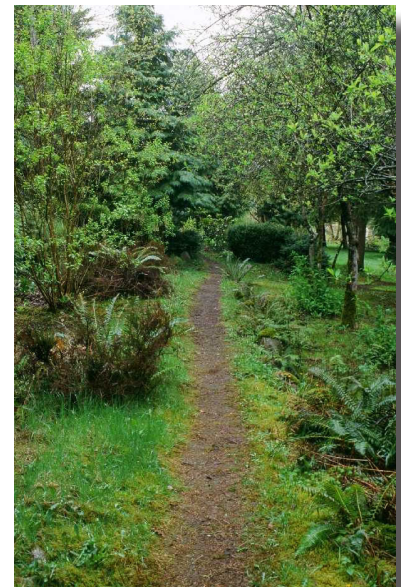
We hope the person or persons involved will read this and stop their destructive behaviour. We don't aim to be punitive, we just want the damage to end. We're hoping this is not malicious and that perhaps someone simply doesn't understand the negative impact of such actions.

We're seeing native plants & shrubs torn out and discarded (sword ferns, native salal, huckleberry, native thyme etc.). A lot of these plants & shrubs have been generously donated over the years by the many people who love Finnies, and developers getting ready to clear their land.

We are very fortunate to have a Naturescape jewel like Finnie's Garden in our midst, and we should treat such green havens with respect.



by George Reamsbottom



by Ian McArthur

The importance of Native Plants:

Native plants are genetically adapted to live in the soils and climates of a specific geographic area and therefore require less fertilizers, water, and effort in controlling harmful insects and diseases.

Native plants can support 50 times more native wildlife than non-native plants.

Non native plants(exotic plants) have very little food or shelter value for native wildlife.

Membership Renewal Due April 1st, 2013

See Membership form on page 5 or pay online www.rhcs.org/membership.html

RIVERVIEW HOSPITAL: ITS PAST, PRESENT, AND ITS FUTURE?



Centennial Year for West Lawn Building. Opened in 1913, West Lawn was the first facility in operation at the new Essondale Hospital. Designed as part of an architectural competition, **West Lawn** was intended to be a monumental building which incorporated contemporary features such as natural lighting, ventilation and open verandahs to promote a healthy contact with nature. Inside the building are spectacular wrought iron stair railings, marble bathrooms and a grand sense of architectural design. **West Lawn** was closed in 1983.

The opening of **West Lawn** was followed by **Centre Lawn** (1924), **East Lawn** (1930) and the **Crease Clinic** (1932). In addition to these massive and significant heritage buildings, Riverview is also graced by more than twenty other heritage buildings which contribute to the site's sense of character. These include the Arts and Crafts-style **Nurses' Home** (1930) and a number of residential buildings constructed in a similar style.

Essondale's Exemplary History of Service. Essondale Hospital, which has been called Riverview Hospital since 1965, had an outstanding record of providing innovative mental health care services for almost a century. Until 1983, Colony Farm was an important component of the hospital facilities where _ with the patients' help _ food was produced for institutional use around the province. At its peak in the 1950s, the facilities at Essondale were under strain to provide compassionate care for over 4400 patients. At this time, the Hospital was a major employer in the region.

The entire site is designed in the manner of grand English country estate enhanced by magnificent trees and other pleasing landscape features such as stone walls and curved driveways. Riverview now hosts western Canada's most significant collection of mature trees (over 1800 inventoried trees) which adds tremendous visual appeal for those who stroll through its majestic grounds. From 1911-1925, it hosted western Canada's first Botanical Garden, which is now located at the University of British Columbia. The Hospital has a remarkable history, with outstanding heritage buildings and a graciously-designed site to support mental wellness in the midst of a world class collection of trees.

Current Uses of the Riverview Site. The Fraser Health Authority operates three smaller facilities (Connolly, Cottonwood and Cypress Lodges) that together provide about 65 long-term beds for mental health care. The movie industry has a major presence on site and uses the Crease Clinic and East Lawn. In

addition, some volunteer groups have short-term leases for the use of some buildings. The provincial Forensic Psychiatric Institute and some non-profit mental health care groups also use some of the older buildings as halfway homes or treatment facilities for their clients. We support all of these uses.

Riverview has great potential to continue to meet mental health care needs in this community as well as support compatible uses and provide a place of quiet refuge open to all who wish to enjoy its beautiful trees and tranquil landscapes.

What does the Future hold for Riverview Hospital? In the summer of 2012, Riverview Hospital finally closed. Since then, the provincial government has kept the buildings "warm, safe and dry". However, the buildings have been emptied of their contents which makes their re-use somewhat challenging. In 2012, The Heritage Canada Foundation listed Riverview in the Top Ten of Canada's most endangered heritage sites.

Future Land Use Planning for Riverview. In spring 2012, the provincial government initiated a Heritage Conservation Planning Process for Riverview. Open houses were held where people were encouraged to submit comments regarding what they valued most about Riverview. This led to an outpouring of heartfelt comments from hundreds of people across the province (posted at www.riverviewvalues.info/).

The next step is land use planning for future uses of the 100 hectare site. Public participation during the land use planning process will be critical to ensuring a successful outcome. There is little doubt that developers, who see the Riverview site as an ideal place for residential development, are waiting in the wings. We need to speak up regarding our vision for Riverview's future.

These Lands are Your Lands!! The Riverview site is owned by the province; the management of the site and facilities is funded by taxpayers. Thus, these lands belong to all of us. The site is open to the public to visit the "Naturescape" award-winning Finnie's Garden, go for a relaxing stroll on the grounds or join a Tree Tour hosted by the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society. Tree tours are offered once a month from March to October on Sunday afternoons (see www.rhcs.org). The Burke Mountain Naturalists also offer tours of Riverview's more natural areas as well as heritage tours (see www.bmn.bc.ca). The **Treefest** celebration will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 11-4 pm with displays and special tours.

Elaine Golds, BMN
Burke Mountain Naturalists



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We're on the Web!
visit us:

www.rhcs.org

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NORDMANN FIR

Genus - *Abies*
Species - *A nordmanniana*



Abies nordmanniana, the Nordmann Fir is native to the mountains west and east of the Black Sea, in Turkey, Georgia, Russian Caucasus and the northern parts of Armenia.

It is a large, evergreen coniferous tree growing to 60m tall and a trunk diameter of up to 2m. Flowers are produced in late April, males on branches all over the crown, females only at the top. Cones are 10-20cm. long and 4-5cm broad. The lustrous, green needles point upward and forward and densely cover the branchlets. The underside of the needles is lined with white stomata. When crushed the needles smell of citrus. Nordmann Fir is thought to be rare in the South Fraser Region.

It is a popular ornamental tree in parks and large gardens and has gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

The species is named after Finnish zoologist Alexander von Nordmann (1803-1866), Professor of Botany at Odessa.

Our Nordmann Fir at Riverview is a very healthy looking specimen located close to Holly Drive between East Lawn and Centre Lawn. The official tag #588 is difficult to find so a good sized yellow plastic tag has been added. The Riverview Heritage Tree Inventory 1995-indicates both Uniqueness and Heritage Rank as being high.

Norma Gillespie

Thanks go out to Bill Browne for recommending Wikipedia and to Susan Murray's "Our Sylvan Heritage".

From the TREEFEST Committee



Treefest 2013 takes place on Saturday, September 14th. Planning is already underway for our 20th Treefest! As it has already become apparent that grants will be more difficult than ever to obtain this year we would like to advise our members that some donations received with 2013 membership renewals may go towards 2013 Treefest expenses.

Any extra donations marked for Treefest will be gratefully appreciated.

2013 Tree Walk Schedule



April 28	Sunday 1 pm	Magnolia Tree Tour
May 5	Sunday 1 pm	Backyard Walk - hosts RHCS & BMN
May 12	Sunday 1 pm	Blossom Time Tree Tour-Mother's day
June 9	Sunday 1 pm	Early Summer Tree Tour
July 7	Sunday 1 pm	Linden Tree Tour & Tea - 1
July 11	Thursday 7:30 pm	Linden Tree Tour & Tea - 2
August 11	Sunday 1 pm	Catalpa North-end Tree Tour
Sept. 14	Saturday 11-4	TREEFEST 2013 - walks on the hour
October 6	Sunday 1 pm	Heritage Walk - hosts RHCS & BMN

2013 - Tree Tour Schedule On-line [click here](#)



The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Logo design and drawings courtesy of
Brenda Gillespie and Kiyoshi Takahashi

RHCS invites you to join us in supporting our efforts to keep the site of British Columbia's first botanical garden, the Riverview Hospital Lands intact.

Now is a great time to WRITE your Government!!

Learn more visit our website www.rhcs.org

PAY or DONATE ONLINE!

You can use a credit card to renew your membership online, www.rhcs.org/membership.html

In this time of uncertainty we really need your continued support more than ever before.

We Value your Continued Support & Appreciate all the help you can give.

The Heritage Trees & Buildings on the Riverview Lands

The Heritage Trees at Riverview Hospital form an irreplaceable asset for the people of BC, complementing the Metro Vancouver Park at Colony Farm, as a regional green space for Greater Vancouver.

Preservation of the site will enhance the quality of life in the Tri-City areas, & beyond.

Join us for one of our guided walking tours. Experience the legacy of BC's first Botanical Garden; a treasure trove of trees from the temperate world, some planted a century ago, allowed to grow to their full potential.

Our walks begin at the front door of the Henry Esson Young Building. Follow Holly Drive, turn uphill onto Oak Crescent then right onto Kalmia.

We go rain or shine.

2013 Walking & Tree Tour Schedule:

Tree Tours: May 12, June 9 & August 11 - Sunday 1 pm
Linden Tree Tours: July 7 - Sunday 1 pm & July 11 - Thursday 7:30 pm
Heritage Walks: October 6 - Sunday 1 pm - Hosted by RHCS & BMN
Backyard Walk: May 5 - Sunday 1pm - Hosted by RHCS & BMN

Treefest 2013 takes place on SATURDAY, September 14, 11am-4pm:

Arborist-led walks, displays, art and music. This free Event is based in & around the Henry Esson Young Building.

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society, P.O. Box 64616, RPO Como Lake, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 7V7
 604-290-9910 trees@rhcs.org www.rhcs.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - FORM

RHCS invites you to join us in supporting our efforts to keep the site of BC's first botanical garden, the Riverview Hospital Lands, intact.

Membership: Adult/Family/Senior:

\$5

NEW ☐ or RENEWAL ☐

Yearly membership is due on April 1st

- RHCS is a registered charitable organization
- Donations of \$10 or more will be automatically receipted.
- Receipts for less than \$10 by request.

You are invited to make a **DONATION** \$ _____
to support the Society

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to; Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Last Name(s): _____ First Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

(personal information will NOT be shared with other organizations)

Please Mail to:

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society
 P.O. Box 64616, RPO Como Lake, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 7V7
 604-290-9910

e-mail:

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trees@rhcs.org

www.rhcs.org