



## LEAVES Newsletter



### HERITAGE STATUS & WHERE WE STAND TODAY

Norma Gillespie

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#### online newsletters

Save a tree; View our newsletters online!

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

The March & September editions are also available in print to members by request.

The newsletters will be posted on our website in pdf format. A direct link will be sent in an email.

Approximately March, June, September & December

[newsletter@rhcs.org](mailto:newsletter@rhcs.org)

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In September 2003 Don Luxton, an award winning author and heritage consultant led the very first heritage walk during Treefest and it was in the same year that the City of Coquitlam re-affirmed its resolution to lobby for the preservation of the site and approved the formation of the Riverview Task Force.

In the fall of 2007 Coquitlam Council directed City staff investigate the possibilities of recognizing the Riverview site as a significant heritage resource, one that should be placed on the City's Community Heritage Register. The City hired Donald Luxton & Associates to prepare a Statement of Significance (SOS) report to support that work.

On January 21, 2008 the SOS report was presented to Council who unanimously voted to place the entire site, including its buildings, natural features, trees and gardens land features and buildings on Coquitlam's Community Heritage Register. Copies of the approved SOS were then sent to the B.C. Heritage Branch to ensure the Riverview Hospital site -- including its buildings, natural features, trees and gardens -- is included in B.C.'s Register of Historic Places. City staff also applied to have the site added to the Canadian Register of Historic Places, and possibly designated as one of Canada's National Historic Sites. In March 2009 Riverview Hospital site was added to Canada's Register of Historic Places.

Although Riverview is now included in BC's and Canada's Registers of Historic Places it is not yet a protected "designated" site. These are encouraging developments but it is absolutely essential to let the Provincial Government know how important the Riverview site is to the people of British Columbia.

Please take a few minutes to let Premier Campbell know that Riverview's heritage is important and should be protected by sending him an email or a letter:

E-Mail: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Mail: Premier Gordon Campbell, P.O. Box 9041, Stn. Prov. Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1

Thanks again to all our members and friends for your continued support.

**Best Wishes to All of you this Holiday Season, Norma**

Visit :

Canada's Register of Historic Places



**R.H.C.S. took part in B.C. Rivers Day this year.  
First time for us, and it was fun. (well most of it)  
We spent four Saturday mornings removing invasive plants  
from Riverview Creek.**

## EDUCATION-CONSERVATION REPORT

Elaine Golds

### Providence Farm a Model for Colony Farm and Riverview

On October 26, members of the Colony Farm Park Association were invited by Metro Vancouver Parks to join them on a field trip to Vancouver Island to view a new fish-friendly tidal gate in Nanaimo and tour Providence Farm in Duncan. I was able to attend along with Norma Gillespie, Donna Crosby and Lindsey Munson. Members of the Colony Farm Community Gardeners also attended.



Providence Farm

The programs have expanded over time and now include a repair shop, carpentry shop, potting soil program and store. The Cowichan Valley Alternate School also has facilities on site. Providence Farm now offers programs for dementia patients and provides a barn where another group offers a therapeutic riding program. The Farm lies in a breath-taking setting with Mount Tzuhalem, at just over 500 meters, dominating the viewscape across the hay meadows. If I recall correctly, only about 70 acres are farmed; the rest of the 400 acres are kept in a natural state. Apparently, the Nature Conservancy recently purchased land on the far slope of Mount Tzuhalem to add to the biological value of the site. We were all quite inspired by what we saw and felt we would like to see such programs initiated at Colony Farm as part of the Sustainability Plan for the Farm.

We all enjoyed an opportunity to tour Providence Farm in Duncan on what turned out to be a beautifully sunny day despite the wet start. Purchased by the Sisters of St. Ann in 1864, this site served as a working farm and school for many years. In the 1970s, the future of the Farm was very much up in the air. At that point, a non-profit group decided to offer programs to the mentally-ill and mentally-challenged. Since then, their programs have grown considerably in size. With the help of many volunteers, the Providence Community Association now has a plant nursery which sells bedding plants. The site also has vegetable gardens from which the produce is sold on site or local farmers' markets. The Farm is organic and some of the food grown there is served for lunch from the kitchen which serves all volunteers, staff and participants.



Providence Farm



This concept would work well at Colony Farm and especially if portions of Riverview were included. Existing buildings could be used as residences for staff and participants or as educational centers etc. and by so doing, irreplaceable agricultural land would be protected from unnecessary development. (small alterations for use in our newsletter by N. Gillespie & D. Crosby)





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**TREES LOOKING FOR A HOME**

I have 7 Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar) seedlings left over from Treefest. Would anyone have a use for these? They are only about 6" tall right now but of course have the potential of growing to well over 100 ft. Please call Donna at 604-939-4064 if you have a use for any or all of these trees.

**TREEFEST 2009 - THANK YOU**

**To our Volunteers & Supporters**

AmFab  
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Bartlett Tree Experts  
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BMN  
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Riverview Hospital  
TD Friends of the Environment  
Diane Thorne  
Thrifty Foods  
Tri-City News  
VanCity/Pinetree

**Winter at Riverview**

Photo by Ken Baker

**COASTAL REDWOOD & GIANT REDWOODS**

Shelagh Bannerman was our Director of Tours & Walkabouts many years ago and wrote this in our Bi-Annual Newsletter dated Sept. 1995 - Feb. 1996. (Her column was on the Coastal Redwood and the Giant Redwoods, both native to California.) She ended her column with this statement.

"The grounds of Riverview are an ideal place to preserve these long living conifer giants. Although they can't express their sentiments these conifers have and will experience more than forty times our human life experiences, if allowed to grow until old age. May future generations enjoy these wondrous Redwood conifer giants on the Riverview grounds."