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Brenda Gillespie and Kiyoshi Takahashi

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Spring 2012
Volume 20, Issue 2

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& Winter newsletters will
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will be sent in an email.

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It was Mental Health Week The Spring of 1992

by Norma Gillespie

And it was the Joint Standing Committee: Hospital Community Relations that decided a walk through the Riverview grounds would be a very good idea and a fine way to celebrate Mental Health Week. The people on the committee had no idea if there was interest but they went ahead and asked David Tarrant from UBC Botanical Gardens and Bill Browne, a retired Vancouver Parks horticulturist and someone who was already extremely interested in the tree collection to lead two walks.

RHCS 1st Newsletter Volume One Number One...the editor is Val Adolph

On a glorious May day some 500 people, staff and community, toured the grounds. From that beginning the movement to preserve and protect the Riverview Lands has gathered momentum.

Throughout the summer and fall of 1992 Bill Browne brought influential botanists and others to tour the site. One visitor was then Environment Minister, John Cashore.

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society was formed in the fall of 1992. Bill Brown was our founding President. In January 1993 members held a strategic planning meeting at which the Society's Mission Statement was defined.

"To preserve and protect the lands and trees of Riverview Hospital site as a community oriented, financially viable centre for horticultural, educational and therapeutic activities."

Priorities for the society were developed and we were off and running. From the very beginning it has been all about spreading the word, raising awareness in every way possible. Nothing has changed in that regard but just yesterday when we had our 1st Walk of 2012 I quickly realized that some things have changed. Just a week ago the Tri-City News printed an 'on line' calendar and for the first time ever we had an unusually very large group out for this early spring walk. It is a walk that Bill Browne urged us to keep up, even if it was not always well attended. Bill felt it was the best time to check out the trees and see the structure of their branches. The on line calendar had worked and many folks were out for the first time and yes they liked what they saw.

Happy Birthday Everyone

Keep up the good work. We're not finished yet.

RHCS Looking Back 20 YEARS

A few of our original members reflect on 20 years with the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

FROM KATIE HUGHES

– RHCS Director since 1992

For me, “the Hort” society started the day I ask David Tarrant, then the Director of Education at U. B.C.’s Botanical Garden, to come out to Riverview Hospital and have a look at Finnie’s Garden and the beautiful, but endangered grounds. It was February, 1992, and it was pouring rain. He came, and was totally impressed. The next step was a meeting at Centre Lawn O. T. It was attended by Bill Browne, Bob Elsdon (grounds supervisor), and many concerned staff members such as myself and Norma Gillespie. This marked the beginning of the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society. Then, during Mental Health Week that year, David Tarrant and Bill Browne co-led the first Tree Walkabout on the lands. The turnout was terrific, the day was sunny, and the trees and gardens were spectacular! The plan “to preserve, protect, and enhance the lands” was put into action. Since then, (with the hard work, dedication, and talent of many) walkabouts, TreeFest, and raising political and public awareness of our arboretum, historic buildings and grounds has been ongoing. As we mark our 20th year, the work continues. The need to protect the lands is more urgent than ever. The hospital has all but closed and the developers can’t wait to get their hands on the property. The RHCS’s work has been very impressive. We have liaised with many community, environmental and political groups and raised a lot of public awareness. Let’s make the next 20 years of commitment see the lands permanently protected for many generations to enjoy!

FROM BOB ELSDON

– Grounds Maintenance (Head Gardener) at Riverview, 1992

As Grounds Maintenance Supervisor at Riverview Hospital, I was made aware of the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society by Bill Browne. He walked into my office and asked if I knew what I had on the grounds. When I said “a lot of trees”, he replied that we had the finest arboretum in North America. I am glad to see that the Society is still fighting to keep the trees and the grounds intact. I wish you a Happy Birthday and I hope your good work continues into the future.



Keep Market Housing off Riverview Lands!

FROM VAL ADOLPH

– RHCS Director since 1992, author of “The Riverview Lands” (1994) and “Tales of the Trees” (2000)

The Lands are still here! Twenty years ago I was so naïve. I thought that if we could just get the government of the day to say “Yes” to keeping the Riverview Lands our task would be done. I learned a lesson in the stalling power of governments. But the Lands are still here. We have gained a strong following of people who recognize the ecological and the heritage value of the Lands and who will stand with us to fight for them. We have sustained the Lands through twenty years of them being regarded as a source of financial gain only. Our beautiful, precious Riverview Lands are still here!

FROM BRENDA GILLESPIE

– co-author and illustrator of “The Riverview Lands” book (1994)

Twenty hard-working years, and the vision remains as clear and vital as on day one. Riverview is a B. C. treasure, a green oasis started by those who understood what research is now bearing out: the value of green landscapes to patients’ and their caregivers’ well-being. “How Hospital Gardens Help People Heal”, Scientific American, 2012 March; (www.scientificamerican.com - search for “hospital gardens”) We must save Riverview’s entire 244 acres, else fall back to a darker age. Many cheers for RHCS, for keeping the light shining!

FROM PAULINE VERRAL

– RHCS Member since 1992, on staff at Riverview Hospital 1974 - 2012

I have to say that when RHCS first started out, we all had visions of saving the lands for a higher purpose.... an oasis of green in a sprawling urban landscape and I believe that has not changed. The greatest accomplishment has been spreading the word, making the community aware of what is here and what we will lose if it is not protected. The greatest frustration, I believe, is the difficulty in getting any honest information from the government on their plans for the future of the Riverview lands. Many memories of this place stand out for me, but I always looked forward to Spring coming to the grounds, the crocuses, the daffodils and the blossoms on the trees. In the old days, when we had a bigger grounds crew, the trees and the gardens were so well cared for. I remember buying garbage bags full of tulip and daffodil bulbs off the groundskeepers for \$2 a bag, all of us with home gardens looked forward to that. All of the seasons have something to offer, but spring and autumn were always my favourite. I still stop sometimes when I am out for my lunchtime walk and just take a moment to breathe in the air and appreciate this place, thankful that I got to spend most of my working life in such a beautiful setting. I hope that common sense will prevail and this place can be saved for the enjoyment of future generations... with such a dedicated core group of hard-working, caring people I like to think we have a pretty good chance!

WRITING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES:

Premier Christy Clark PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
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RHCS 20th YEAR



An Early Tree Tour with Bill Browne on the Riverview Lands

FROM SUE HABERGER

– Current Director of Communications, RHCS Director since 1992

I can vividly recall my amazement when I wandered down the hill from Mundy Park and “discovered” the Riverview lands. My inquiries into their history and status led me to connect with a group of people with whom I shared a vision of the Lands evolving into a world-class treatment centre and horticultural treasure. I expected the Provincial government to embrace this vision and tell us – “What a creative, sensible idea! Why didn’t we think of that?” Well, I was wrong about how easy it would be to influence the decision makers but since that time, support for the vision has grown within the community and among environmental, mental health, horticultural, educational, arts, and heritage organizations nation wide. We stand at a critical point in our quest to secure a good future for Riverview. Twenty years of advocacy work has left me more politically seasoned but no less committed to achieving our goal.

FROM NORMA GILLESPIE

– Current President, RHCS Director since 1992

The City of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody have, like people from all over the world called for Preservation of the Riverview Site... Why doesn’t the Premier and her government respect public opinion and DO THE RIGHT THING! Now is the time for all good citizens to come to the aid of their country - when we preserve green space we enrich humanity.

FROM KEN BAKER

– Current Vice President, early RHCS Director

My introduction to the Riverview Lands was back in 1985. The visual beauty stirred my senses, filtering deep into my soul. It awakened an unquenchable need within me as a lover of nature and a photographer to explore and record the tranquility of life unique within this 244 acres. Many years, through all seasons, and Hundreds of photographs later my appreciation and love for the Riverview Lands, and for all that they offer us, both visually and spiritually has taken me on a journey I will cherish and never forget for the rest of my life. This is a treasure never to be lost! Thank you RHCS for the last 20 years fighting the good fight. You’ve all done a remarkable job! Thank you for your ability to “see”, and your “need” to save the treasure within. We are not done yet!

FROM TERI MADAISKY

– Current Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, RHCS Director since 1993

I first glimpsed the trees & lands picking up my sister after her work shift at Riverview. I never forgot how I wanted to see more so when I saw the article in the news for the 1st walks in 1992 I was excited about the opportunity, I very much enjoyed that walk with my mother. Still thinking about the site I saw an article later listing the first AGM for a group then referred to as the ‘Friends of the Riverview Trees’ soon to become RHCS. I attended that meeting & have been a director ever since. At first as a director at large working on organizing our membership list, then later publishing the newsletter, brochures & the society website.

As the site grabbed my heart so many years ago I see it grab others when they see the site on our walks for the first time. It is hard to believe it may not always exist. We need a government with some heart. This place is too important for BC to lose.

FROM MARY BROWN

– Current Walk Director, RHCS Director since 1994

Tree Walk organizer My first job for RHCS was all day parking attendant at Treefest, (1st or 2nd) boring! Now I know to make sure that volunteers get relief, and the chance to go on a walk. I have developed a passion for the trees, which leads me to try to identify them, wherever I happen to be. I was delighted to find two Camperdown Elms near Westminster Abbey in London.

Tea Party

RHCS 20th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Celebrating Looking Back 20 Years
Tree Tours & Tea

June 3, 2011

11 am – 4 pm

Everyone Welcome 🌿

**Membership Renewal Due
April 1st, 2012**

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RHCS

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visit us:**

www.rhcs.org

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Pass on to a friend to read

**AGM Announcement!**

EVERYONE is WELCOME

Please come join us for Our

Annual General Meeting

Thursday May 3, 2012 at 7:30 pm
Henry Esson Young Building, Riverview Hospital

call for more info: 604-290-9910

Please note AGM date is 1 month earlier this year to secure a room.
If you want to know more about what is happening this is a chance to hear the latest news.

WALKS of 2012

Mary Brown - Walk Director

Our walks in 2012 will include a special event on June 3rd, as part of our celebration of 20 years since the Society was formed. Plans are on-going, but we envisage having a variety of tree walks, starting at 1pm, followed by a heritage walk at 2 pm. Tea will be served during the afternoon. There will be options for a short tree walk, with a chance to join the heritage walk afterwards, or go on a longer walk, perhaps to an area you have not visited already, or of course the popular walk past the Lawn buildings, towards the Colony Farm entrance. At any time you will be welcomed in the tea tent, for refreshments and chat. We hope this will be a fun day, maybe even some sun, which will be somewhat different than our celebration of the trees at Treefest (without forgetting our reason for being).

We hope to welcome old and new members, and anyone who has not visited the Riverview Lands before, (surprisingly there still seem to be some out there!).

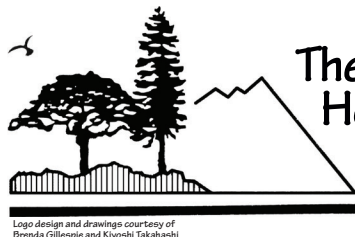
We have been told that we can hold our walks this year, but no one is sure how long we will be able to continue to bring people to these beautiful lands.

2012 Tree Walk Schedule

March 18	Sunday 1 pm	First walk of the 2012 season
April 22	Sunday 1 pm	Magnolia walk
May 6	Sunday 1 pm	BMN-FinniesBackyard-Children/Youth Walk
May 13	Sunday 1 pm	Blossom Time - Mother's day
June 3	Sunday 1 pm	Special Event RHCS 20 th ANNIVERSARY
June 24	Sunday 1 pm	Linden walk & Tea - 1
July 5	Thursday 7:30 pm	Linden walk & Tea - 2
July 15	Sunday 1 pm	Summer Tree Tour
August 12	Sunday 1 pm	Catalpa North end Tree Tour
August 19	Sunday 1 pm	BMN Heritage walk
Sept. 15	Saturday 11-4	TREEFEST 2012- walks on the hour
October 14	Sunday 1 pm	Public Tree Tour - Last of the season

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

2012 Tree Tour Schedule On-line @
www.rhcs.org



The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

RENEW or JOIN NOW!! 2012

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.

*Our Letter writing campaign continues,
YOU still have time to WRITE !!*

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 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.

2012 Walking Tour Schedule:

April 22, May 13, June 3, July 15, August 12 & October 14 at 1 pm
Linden Walks Sunday June 24 at 1 pm & Thursday July 5 at 7:30 pm

Burke Mountain Naturalists offer: Finnie's Backyard Children/Youth - May 6 & Heritage walk - August 19 at 1pm

Treefest 2012 takes place on **SATURDAY, September 15, 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
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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 Classification: NEW ☐ or RENEWAL ☐

Please make cheques payable to;
Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Student: \$5 ☐ Senior: \$5 ☐ Adult: \$10 ☐ Family: \$15 ☐ Corporate: \$25 ☐

Yearly membership is due on April 1st

- RHCS is a registered charitable organization
- Tax Receipts issued for donations

AND you are invited to make a \$
DONATION to support the Society \$
Total amount enclosed \$

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

Address: City:

Province: Postal Code: Phone #:

Email for 'Newsletters' & notices:

Please Mail to: The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

P.O. Box 64616, RPO Como Lake, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 7V7

(personal information will NOT be
shared with other organizations)

604-290-9910

trees@rhcs.org

www.rhcs.org