

FINNIE'S GARDEN

## A Hidden Treasure at Riverview

2601 Lougheed Hwy. Coquitlam, B.C.

## Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

 Contact RHCS at 290-9910RHCS is a group of concerned citizens gathered together to preserve and protect the Lands and Trees of the Riverview Hospital site as a community oriented, financially viable centre for horticultural, educational, and therapeutic activities.


Finnie's Garden started in 1951, as a place where people who lived at Riverview would be able to play outdoors, and enjoy working with growing things.
Art Finnie, a nurse, and former logger, farmer and navy veteran, who had suffered a head injury the year before, was asked to set up a garden, originally known as "Farm View".
Plans were drawn up by a draftsman patient, and these were gradually developed. In a report Art Finnie wrote that "it was the best therapy for the patients that they could have had". To this day some of the patients find therapy by working and relaxing in the gardens, and enjoying the fruits of their labours.

Trees have grown up, so that the sun does not reach as far back in the garden as the plans indicate it did. Some lovely lilacs remain, and continue to flourish. New trees have been planted, including more fruit trees.

Today we can still see the fish pond, stone terraces, flower beds, plots for different wards, and lawns, shown in the original plans. Volunteers from the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society aka "Friends of Finnie's" clean up the overgrowth on the steps and walls, to show their unique beauty, and the craftsmanship that created them. The flower beds have debris removed, and some old fashioned perennials are planted.

Many areas have become habitat for birds and small animals, and some not so small, such as a family of deer who use the green corridor. Burke Mountain Naturalists (BMN) have created a brochure, listing species seen in the area.


Some years ago the garden was dedicated as "Finnie's Garden", to the delight of Mr Finnie. He died in 1998. As a memorial to him RHCS has planted two white lilacs, and a heritage apple tree.
Do take the time to enjoy this garden. Once you have found it you will return many times. Just remember that you are sharing it with the patients for, and by whom it was originally created.

