



Steveston

Fall 2013

Steveston Community Society Newsletter

One Door Closes, Another Door Opens

Dear Readers;

Welcome to the final print edition of the Steveston Community Society Newsletter.

Beginning in the new year, this newsletter will move to an on-line version so we can keep you up-to-date in real time with news and activities happening in and around the community centre.

The first issue was published in June 2006, and was intended to be a direct communique to area residents about events and activities at the community centre, and highlight happenings elsewhere in the village.

Over the years, this newsletter has grown

in circulation and popularity, and evolved to include feature stories about our history, merchants, artists, and the people who make our village so unique. It also came at a cost, and being that we are a budget-conscious non-profit society, we have made the decision to move to a more cost-effective method of sharing our news so that we can redirect resources to other programs at the community centre.

The on-line newsletter will continue publishing the same features alongside the news of the day on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. We will also print a limited number of copies of a selection of featured stories from

the on-line version on a quarterly basis for anyone who still prefers a paper newsletter. These copies will be available for pick up at the community centre.

We thank you, our readers, neighbours, members of our community, for your support of this newsletter for the past eight years, and we look forward to meeting you on-line in the new year. Visit our website www.stevestoncommunitysociety.com to subscribe, or follow us on one of our social media sites, to ensure you never miss out on news and features from around the community centre.

Sincerely,
Your newsletter team!



Follow us on Twitter: @StevestonCS



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Highlights of the inside...

President's Message	2
Notice of Annual General Meetings	2
SCS Board of Directors	2
McNulty's Meanderings.....	3
Around the Community Centre.....	4-5
Fitness Programs at the Centre	4
Winter Break Programs.....	4
Volunteering Corner.....	4
Steveston Preschools.....	4
Christmas Craft Fair.....	5
Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market.....	5
Steveston Educational Garden.....	6
Around the Village.....	7
Gulf of Georgia Cannery News	7
Artists in Steveston: Pat Thorson.....	7
Steveston United Church Bazaar	7
Salmon Festival Thank You!.....	8



The Steveston Community Society Newsletter is published quarterly. Our goal is to provide information about the people and activities at the community centre, and to share stories about common interests, history, local personalities and events in the broader Steveston community. This newsletter is created by and for the members of the community. Please contact us if you would like to join the volunteer newsletter team.

If you would like to submit an item for inclusion in the newsletter, or recommend a story idea for one of our writers, please forward your ideas, information or material to our editorial committee for consideration. Space is free but limited, and we reserve the right to edit content.

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Your feedback is always welcome. Please give us a call, drop us a note, or email newsletter@stevestoncommunitysociety.com. Visit our website for previous issues and submission information.

Mission Statement

The Steveston Community Society is an association of volunteers dedicated to maintaining a positive, pioneer "Spirit of Steveston", by providing cultural, social, and recreational opportunities for all members of the community.

President's Message

Dear Neighbours,

The arrival of fall brings many changes. The weather changes, trees shed their leaves, coffee lovers and foodies retreat from patios to shop interiors, and a new season of programs arrives at the Steveston Community Centre.

The Steveston Community Society is also undertaking a significant change this fall as we move to a stronger on-line presence so that we may serve you better. The most noticeable change will be the phase-out of this newsletter in favour of an on-line web log or "blog".

We are nearing completion of a new and improved website, which will feature sections specific to each of our program areas that will provide you with greater access to information about our services and programs that are of interest to you. The blog feature will encompass everything you've come to enjoy about this newsletter, but on a more timely and relevant basis.

Our new website and blog will be active by early in the new year. Visit our website often, and perhaps you will be among the first to discover the new site when it goes live! Once active, you will be able to subscribe to the new on-line newsletter so you will never miss a news item from us. If you are a social media user, you can also like us on facebook, or follow us on twitter to get real-time updates of events and activities as they happen!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and staff who have contributed to developing this newsletter over its tenure. A lot of work has gone into this publication and we look forward to more interesting contributions from the newsletter team once it is on-line.

The Society continues to be busy with other projects and activities as well. The winter edition of the Farmers & Artisans Market opened October 20 and will operate bi-weekly until the spring; visit www.sfam.ca or read further in this newsletter for the full schedule.

Our Educational Garden is another wonderful success story this year. After opening to much fanfare in early May, our garden team set to work planting, caring for, and growing a wonderful selection of produce and flowers this year. The program team is working on a number of exciting garden-related classes and workshops that you will find listed in the Recreation Guide on-line or in print, and soon on our new website! You can read more about our garden futher in this newsletter.

As this is my last opportunity to address you in print, I would like to thank you, members of our community, for reading our newsletter. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Steveston Community Centre, I wish you a peaceful holiday season, and an exciting new year to come!

Beth Ovenden, President
Steveston Community Society and
Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meetings of the **Steveston Community Society** and **Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society** will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Seiner Room at the Steveston Community Centre, 4111 Moncton Street, Richmond.

*Steveston Community Society
Board of Directors 2013-14*

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McNulty's Meanderings...by Bill McNulty

Floods and Storms

Given that Steveston is located in the Fraser River Delta at the terminus of the river, one might expect that Steveston would always be affected by the freshets and storms that occur in the Strait of Georgia.

It has been maintained that the flood of 1894 was the greatest Fraser River flood in the past century, as the floodwater was measured to be 8.9 metres. The dyking system around the largest islands, Lulu and Sea, in the Fraser River was primarily left to each land owner to provide. It was not until September 1905, when a coordinated effort was made to provide

dykes by forming the Lulu Island Dyking District Commission.

Massive flooding again took place in 1948 when water rose and measured 8.2 metres. Flooding also took place in the Fraser Valley and other areas along the Fraser River that year.

In addition to flooding, massive storms caused havoc in the delta. One such storm was reported on the front page of the Province Newspaper on Friday, December 27, 1901, with the following headlines:

GREAT DAMAGE BY STORM IN FRASER RIVER DELTA LULU AND SEA ISLANDS ARE UNDER WATER

Labrador Cannery Entirely Demolished and Alliance and North Arm Buildings Reported Swept Away Dykes Are Carried Away for Miles at a Stretch Cannery Boats Damaged and Carried Into Fields by The Tempest

Disaster by flood-the most extensive on the lower mainland since the Fraser overwashed its banks in 1894-today followed the storm of Wednesday night. The canneries and buildings and farms at the mouth of the north arm of the Fraser River were the greatest sufferers, and the damage would aggregate in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Sea Island and the greater part of Lulu Island were covered with two to four feet of water. Three canneries were practically destroyed and many others damaged to a greater or lesser extent, and miles of dykes in a stretch were ripped away by the flood coming in from the gulf with the force of the gale behind it.

On the muddy waters of the gulf were thousands of dollars worth of salmon cases floating around, tossed idly to and fro by the waves.

The Labrador cannery at Terra Nova was entirely swept away. The Alliance and North Arm canneries, two of the largest on this part of the river were also demolished, although some of the wharf piling and one or two of the smaller buildings remained.

STEVESTON IS BADLY FLOODED Water Came Into the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Building

The town of Steveston was under water. The new corduroy road building for a large of the distance across the island had almost entirely floated away. Nearly all the dykes were washed out, and as in the north arm, the damage to canneries and other buildings was large.

Some of the outbuildings of the Colonial cannery were town away by drifting logs. The Gulf of Georgia Cannery was somewhat lower than others in the vicinity, and the water covered the cannery floor inside the buildings.

The Cleeve Canning company's fishing station, with buildings and scows away out at the sandheads, were carried away, and not a single pile of the wharf was left standing. Some of the smaller buildings of the Albion cannery were also carried away.

There was two feet of water in the Steveston streets. The dykes were badly broken as far up as Chinatown, about a mile and a half above there, where there was no protection of cannery pilling there were large stretches of the dyke, half a mile in extent, also destroyed.

The ship Greta was loading salmon and broke her moorings. She drifted a short distance up the river and dropped her anchor. She escaped luckily with very little damage.

The storm was felt right up the Fraser Valley to Chilliwack. The steamer "Braver" was tied up in the lower slough near Chilliwack. The vessel was carried out into the stream by the wind, and her forward line broke. She then beached on a sand bar.

The articles on the storm indicate just how vulnerable the pioneers of Steveston were to the elements of nature. Below are photos of Richmond during the flood of 1948.



City of Richmond Archives Photograph #1988 99 2



City of Richmond Archives Photograph #1988 99 3



City of Richmond Archives Photograph #1988 99 4

Bill McNulty is a local historian and has published four books on sports and two on local history. He is a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians and has served on Richmond City Council since 1993. He is President of the Rotary E-Club of Lulu Island and has been a member of Rotary since 1988.



Around the Community Centre

Fitness Programs at the Centre!

by Donna Bishop, Fitness Coordinator

Did you know...

...we have a running club at Steveston Community Centre? The club meets on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:00am at the front desk, and Sundays at 7:00am in the parking lot. If you can run for at least 30 minutes continually, come and join the group for good exercise and lots of chatter.

If you are not a runner but want to become one, register for one of the two Sun Run clinics offered at the community centre in January. This is a tried and true way to learn how to safely complete 10km. Check out the

Winter/Spring 2014 Parks Recreation and Cultural Guide for details.

Did you also know...

...we have four drop-in yoga classes each week at Steveston as well as many unique registered yoga classes? Check out our schedule of classes next time you drop in.

Did you also know...

...we have 12 spinning bikes and run regular classes at Steveston? All instructors are specially trained to teach group cycling and you are always guaranteed a great workout! Check out our in-house schedule for all the spinning classes.

Winter Break Camps!

Calendars with specific details will be available December 1st.

6-12 Years - LICENSED

Camps will run on the following dates from 9:00am to 4:00pm as Single Day Registration for \$40.10/day:

- Monday, December 23 (378659)
- Tuesday, December 24 (378660)
- Friday, December 27 (378661)
- Monday, December 30 (378662)
- Tuesday, December 31 (378663)
- Thursday, January 2 (378664)
- Friday, January 3 (378666)

These one day camps include trips, theme days, crafts and games. Participants are to bring a lunch and appropriate clothing each day.

PRESCHOOL CAMP - LICENSED

Classes run from 9:15-11:45am. Single Day Registration is \$16/day.

- Monday, December 23 (378558)
- Tuesday, December 24 (378560)
- Friday, December 27 (378561)
- Monday, December 30 (378563)
- Tuesday, December 31 (378564)
- Thursday, January 2 (378565)
- Friday, January 3 (378566)

Staffed by Early Childhood Educators, camp activities include crafts, free play, circle time, and games. Please provide a light, healthy, nut-free snack.

STEVESTON PRESCHOOLS!

Preschool spaces are available in the following classes:

Sunshine ~ Monday-Thursday PM (12:15-2:45pm) 4 year olds

Salmonbellies ~ M/W/F PM (12:15-2:45pm) 4 year olds

Rainbow ~ Monday/Wednesday PM (12:15-2:45pm) 3&4 year olds

Call 604-238-8080 for information.

Volunteer Corner

The Impact of Volunteers

Without faithful volunteers, most non-profit and charitable organizations would not be able to provide the level of service and/or reach the people who most need those services.

Most of these organizations do not have the manpower or funds to do all the work. That is why volunteers are so important and needed.

Volunteering is also good for the volunteer. It helps you to focus and appreciate what you have and gives you a great feeling and a strong sense of self-esteem knowing that you have helped another human being.

Volunteers have an enormous impact on the health and well-being of their communities from delivering critical services to other services such as volunteering skills and assisting at events.

Another way to measure the impact of volunteers is to take a look at statistics like all the hours served by volunteers and the economic value of volunteer time. The economic value of the thousands of volunteer hours amounts to a huge amount of dollars.

Volunteers are critical partners of

and participants in our society. Whether actively giving their time through a formal organizations, or taking part in what is sometimes called "informal volunteering" where citizens voluntarily participate in community activities or provide personal care for family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers as part of accepted cultural norms of giving and reciprocity.

Finally, here's one more way to visualize the impact of volunteers. Try this little exercise: imagine if one day, all volunteers simply do not show up.

What would our cities, towns, parks, schools, places of worship, and libraries look like? What basic needs would go unmet? What opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive as a society would be lost? The truth is you likely cross paths with a volunteer at least once if not several times a day, no matter where you are in the world.

Steveston Community Centre is committed to maintaining our strong base of productive, happy and long-term volunteers.

Adapted from <http://www.idealists.org/info/Volunteer/Why> by Patricia Toti, Events and Volunteer Coordinator.



To volunteer, please visit <https://icanhelp.richmond.ca> and choose Steveston as your preferred facility to be part of the STEVESTON VOLUNTEER TEAM!

Start your holiday gift shopping at
Richmond's largest

Christmas Craft Fair



**150+ Crafty Tables of Unique
one-of-a-kind hand made items!**

**Concession hosted by SWAT:
Steveston With Active Teens**

Saturday, November 30, 2013

10:00am - 4:00pm

**Steveston Community Centre
Net Shed Building (Indoor Tennis Court)
4111 Moncton Street, Richmond**

**Admission by donation in support of the Educational Garden
or a non-perishable food item
in support of the Richmond Food Bank**



Info: 604-238-8080

www.stevestoncommunitysociety.com



STEVESTON & Farmers Artisans MARKET

A project of the Steveston Community Society
and Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society

The winter edition of the Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market opened Sunday, October 20 and operates bi-weekly from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, until April 6, 2014, except for the month of January.

Visit the outdoor vendors then come inside and enjoy a unique shopping experience among the vendors nestled between the exhibits in the museum. The Cannery recently upgraded their heating system, providing a much warmer atmosphere than in previous years.

During December the Gulf of Georgia Cannery will celebrate the warmth of the holiday season with displays of Christmas trees festively decorated by Steveston merchants. On Sunday, December 1st, Santa arrives in the afternoon for a visit and photos. Market vendors will stay open an extra hour until 4:00pm at the special request of St. Nick!

December 15th is your last chance to shop the Market before Christmas, then it will take a short break, re-opening in the new year on February 9 until April 6. The summer season opens the May long weekend, continuing bi-weekly until September.

*Mark your calendars ~ 2013/14
Winter Market dates are*

**Sundays, November 17; December 1, 15;
February 9, 23; March 9, 23; April 6**

10:00am to 3:00pm

**Gulf of Georgia Cannery
12138 4th Avenue, Richmond**

www.sfam.ca



The Recreation & Culture Guide is available at www.richmond.ca/guide or at the Steveston Community Centre.

Registration for programs is on-going! There are three ways to register: online at www.richmond.ca/register, by phone at 604-276-4300 or in person at any City facility.

Steveston Educational Garden

The Steveston Educational Garden enjoyed a fantastic first year of growth. From opening day on May 5, the plants in our garden loved the space and gave us a great crop of vegetables, flowers, herbs and perennials. We even have a resident bunny who liked our garden so much he moved in over the summer!

The garden is now well on its way to providing endless year-round educational opportunities for our preschools, youth and older adult programs, as well as regular programs available to the general public in the Recreation Guide. Our staff and volunteers are working hard to come up with a variety of programs and events for everyone to enjoy.

Visit our website, or follow the garden on Facebook to keep up to date on all the events and activities growing in our little garden.

We've just added a new gardening series "Best Perennial Flower Bed" with Educator Bardia Khaledi!

Sundays, November 17, 24 and December 1, 2pm-4pm. \$14 per session.

Session 1 Bulbs #523114

Session 2 Herbaceous perennials #523558

Session 3 Shrubs #523559

Register today! www.richmond.ca/register, or 604-276-4300



Master Gardener Bardia Khaledi is one of many volunteers who helped establish our garden this year!



Shelley Hodgkinson leads a class in container herb gardens, in which participants planted their own containers to take home to enjoy!



Christmas Light Displays!

The Steveston Community Centre's annual hayrides, which tour through the village streets to view all the wonderfully decorated residences, are Friday, December 6th, and Saturday, December 7th, from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.

If you decorate your home in a festival display of colourful lights, please let us know so we can include your address on the tour! society@stevestoncommunitysociety.com or 604-238-8080.

Around the Village



November 28

Girls Night Out in Steveston! Check out the specials in the Cannery Store. We'll be open late the evening of November 28, from 5 to 9pm as part of this fun night out in the village.

December 1

Santa Comes to Steveston! This popular community event takes place on Sunday, December 1 as Santa makes his way from the public dock to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. There he will be available for free photos with the kids. Bring your camera!

Now until April, 2014

Ryoshi: Nikkei Fishermen of the BC Coast

This exhibit explores the contributions Japanese Canadians have made to the west coast fishing industry since the 1870's. The trials and tribulations of the Nikkei are told through artifacts, text and video.

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery is open daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information visit www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com or call 604-664-9009.

Steveston United Church Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 16th

10:00am – 2:00pm

The bazaar has been a holiday tradition in Steveston Village for over 60 years and hundreds turn out to shop, eat and meet friends and neighbours at this friendly community event.

The bazaar is a terrific family destination with chow mein, an Asian food market, hot dogs, chili and dessert table.

Attendees will be able to purchase delicious home baking and do some early holiday shopping at tables of crafts, jewelry and other unique gift items. The silent auction will offer additional gift potential.

For more information, visit us online: www.stevestonunitedchurch.ca

Artists in Steveston: Pat Thorson

Pat Thorson, watercolour painter in Steveston says: "In my life, painting is literally 'front and centre'".

Pat was raised in Vancouver and as her mother was afflicted with polio, the family lived close to Vancouver General hospital for her early years.

Her lifelong interest in art began in elementary school where at age 10 she won a scholarship to "Painting in the Parks", a program for young people. She also attended Vancouver School of Art at that same age.

She went on to major in art in high school, and Art Education at UBC, following which she became a teacher. Pat enjoyed teaching art classes in elementary school, often incorporating the subject of art with other subjects to enliven the curriculum.

Being a single mother of one daughter, Pat juggled motherhood and career, eventually as a vice principal and principal, and finding a balance with her own explorations in painting for many years.

Retiring 13 years ago, she has devoted much of her time to painting, working at home in her kitchen studio.

"When I retired, my dog at that time was very sick with diabetes and its complications including blindness. I wanted to capture his spirit before he died. One of those paintings won the *People's Choice Award* at the Richmond Guild and that inspired me to paint further."

Capturing the essence or spirit of her subjects is what is important to Pat and she takes many photographs on which to base drawings and then the final painting.

Subjects vary, from the lovely flowers on the patio of her Steveston townhouse to the swans in the marina outside. She also commissions paintings of pets, all done with delicate efficiency in lines and shading.

"I am very connected to the subject before I paint. Some of my favorite paintings have found their inspiration in Steveston: a series of snowberry branches, the Steveston swans (from which she has done a series of paintings), and a resident bulldog which won an *Award of Distinction* at the 2012 *Oil and Water* show in Delta."

Work in progress includes portraits of giant sea turtle from photos taken in Hawaii, a commission of a cairn terrier, and a grouping of purple peppers photographed outside a local market.

Recent showings of Pat Thorson's work have been in this summer's *Pot and Paints* show at the Richmond Art Gallery, Gibson's Landing in the Longhouse Gallery, the Gateway Theatre, Bean and Beyond cafe in Steveston, and the *Oil and Water* show at the Delta Artist's Gallery.

Pat is also active in the Richmond Artist Guild, the Riverside Art Group, and is helping to arrange upcoming art shows such as the *Guess Who* show in Richmond in November where many B.C. artists, including some very well known, will produce standard size canvases, all for sale for the same price, unsigned, with half of the proceeds going to a good cause.

"For me" Pat says, "if I have brought to life the translucent nature of watercolour, if I have found the luminosity of light, and if I have brought the heart of the subject to the paper, my painting has been successful."

To view her work or to request a commissioned piece, email pthorson@shaw.ca

Betsy Randel is a writer and an artist living in Steveston. She can be reached at www.artthatheals.org Betsy_Randel@hotmail.com





The 68th Annual Steveston Salmon Festival would like to thank all our sponsors and volunteers for their tremendous support in making "Canada's biggest little birthday party" a great success!

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- Nurse Next Door
- Richmond Golden Rods & Reels
- Steveston Harbour Authority

- Steveston Seafood House
- 12th Richmond Scouts

And a great big thank you and thunderous applause to all the city staff and the hundreds of volunteers who came together to produce the 2013 Steveston Salmon Festival. We couldn't have done it without you!

