



Steveston Judo Club Celebrates 60 Years

by Christine Durgo

Judo was founded in Japan in 1882 by Dr. Jigoro Kano. Developed from the ancient martial art of jujitsu, judo was offered as the “gentle way” or “flexible way”. Kano designed judo training to most efficiently use mental and physical energy, building character through mental and moral discipline, guiding judokas (judo students) toward healthy bodies and strong minds. Kano created judo with the idea that Japan would make an important, enduring, cultural and spiritual contribution to the world through judo’s discipline and training, preparing responsible and caring citizens who serve in their communities, countries, and the world.

Jigoro Kano’s accomplishments included being the first Asian member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) (he served from 1909 until 1938); officially representing Japan at most Olympic Games held between 1912 and 1936; and serving as a leading spokesman for Japan’s bid for the 1940 Olympic Games. He is also credited with introducing a number of other sports, including baseball, to Japan. Judo has been an official Olympic sport since 1964.

Steveston Judo Club was founded in 1953 by Tom (Tomoaki) Doi, Seiichi Hamanishi, Takeo Kawasaki, Kunji Kuramoto, Yukio Mizuguchi, Frank (Yonekazu) Sakai, Kanezo Tokai, Soichi Ueyeyama, Harry (Haruo) Kuramoto and Lanky (Yutaka) Mizuguchi, who began training 80 Japanese judokas in the art of judo. The Club first practiced in the back of the Steva Theatre on 2nd Avenue in Steveston. The building still stands today and is the former location of the Arts Connection. Over the next few years the club’s home moved around as they outgrew each space, until the Steveston Community Centre was opened in 1957.

The vision and construction of the community centre was the result of an open hearted, healing and inclusive collaboration between Japanese-Canadians and non Japanese of Steveston. With only two conditions being applied, the Japanese community supported the Steveston Community Society by contributing \$15,000 to help finance the community centre. The two conditions were that there be



permanent space designated within the centre for judo and kendo clubs to be able to practice in the gym.

A decade and a half later, on March 18, 1972, the Steveston Martial Arts Centre opened. Another successful, cooperative collaboration between the Japanese-Canadian community and non Japanese had been realised. The design that was finally settled upon included both western and Japanese elements. During the early stages of design development three Japanese-Canadian members of the Steveston Community Society Board of Directors voted against the Japanese elements in the design proposal. Their reasoning being, that the design was too traditional and they didn’t want to dwell on the past, they wanted to look forward. There is a phrase in the Japanese language that translates as “What has happened has happened, leave it in the past”. The non Japanese members of the board voted in favour of the Japanese inspired design, stating that they were proud to celebrate Steveston’s Japanese history. The graceful architectural result became the first such dojo to have been built outside of Japan.

The Steveston Judo Club started off strong, with roots planted deep within the traditions set out by Jigoro Kano. In the late 1950s, the Steveston Judo Club dominated in BC, winning tournaments in Vernon, Kamloops, Victoria, Nanaimo and also in Seattle. The club produced many national champions, sent competitors to the Pacific Rim Championships, World Championships and to the Olympics.

Some of the club’s veteran members have moved into coaching and refereeing. An experienced member of the Steveston Judo Club coached the Judo Canadian National

Team at the Pan American Games and World Championships. One of the club’s 60 year veterans was the first naturalised Canadian to attain his international licence to referee in judo competitions worldwide. Steveston Judo Club’s athletes, coaches and referees are deeply involved with Judo Canada and are highly respected in Canada and throughout the world.

Five honorable club members, including Jim Kojima, Martin Kuramoto, Art Nishi, Haruo Hirata and Isao Kuramoto, who have been with the club for 60 years, keep the traditional values in place. The older members impress upon young judokas the importance of knowing how to do a break fall, a way to fall and roll that prevents injury. Learning how to fall properly is valuable in any sport that a person chooses to play. Winning tournaments is very important but learning judo etiquette is as essential if not more important than winning competitions. The manners taught to judokas include bowing to their senseis (teachers), other judokas, and when coming onto the judo mats. Judokas are taught to show respect for their parents, grandparents, politicians and leaders, whether they agree with them or not.

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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,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring 2013 issue of our community newsletter as your new President of the Steveston Community Society.

I would first like to thank the out-going President, Jim Kojima, for his leadership over the past five years. During his tenure as President, the Society has earned a reputation as a strong community advocate for Steveston. Moving forward we will continue to look for ways to support the community as a whole, beyond our walls, and for the benefit of everyone who lives, works, and plays in Steveston. Jim will remain on the Executive committee as Past President.

I also extend our gratitude to outgoing board members Barb Nimchuk and DeAnn McBride. Barb has served as Co-Chair of the Salmon Festival for eight years, and DeAnn has been vital to the development of our Farmers & Artisans Market. Thank you ladies for your service to the community. Finally, we welcome new board member Chris Lim, who comes to us through the Volunteer Richmond - Youth Now program. We look forward to having his energy and fresh ideas at the board table.

This coming spring and summer will see two significant projects in our park coming to completion: the tram barn, and educational garden. Both projects have been long-planned and we are excited to finally see them both coming to completion.

The tram barn will be completed in April, and we look forward to its grand opening celebration on May 3rd. Once the building is operational, a team of volunteers will spend the next two years restoring the historic tram. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in the restoration, email interurbantram@richmond.ca. One of the unique features of the site will be the opportunity to display the tram outside for special occasions such as the Salmon Festival and other summertime events.

The other significant change to our park is the Educational Garden project. Volunteers have been busy preparing the garden beds, which will be ready for soil and seeding by mid-April as well. In addition, we have been working with programming staff and gardening experts to develop a number of workshops and courses for the public, as well as for our preschool, youth, and older adult programs. We are planning an official opening event on May 5; details will soon be announced on our website.

Other significant dates to mark on your calendar include the Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market summer season opening May 19 - do visit their website www.sfam.ca for the full schedule - and of course the 68th Annual Steveston Salmon Festival on Monday, July 1st. The festival committee has already been very busy with plans for "Canada's biggest little birthday party".

The Society is still working on a new website, which we hope to launch later this spring. Our plans include phasing out this newsletter by the fall, in favour of a blog which will accompany the website. Our ability to share news and information in a more timely manner, plus community stories and accolades and much of the rest of this newsletter's content will continue to be featured in our blog. I also encourage you to Follow us on Twitter, or Like us on Facebook, if you are on social media, as we use those sites for quick updates for what's happening "now" at the community centre.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Steveston Community Society, thank you for your support, and commitment to this community.

Beth Ovenden, President

Steveston Community Society and

Richmond Agricultural & Industrial Society

68th Annual Steveston Salmon Festival "Canada's biggest little birthday party!" Monday, July 1st, 2013

Visit www.stevestonsalmonfest.ca for news, updates and information about the 2013 festival. Applications for the parade, trade show, food fair, community info tables are now available. Don't forget the horticultural show, entry packages will be ready by April! Celebrate Canada Day with 80,000 of your closest friends and neighbours in Steveston!



McNulty's Meanderings...by Bill McNulty

James Noel McConnell (1914-1990)

Noel McConnell was one of those figures in Steveston and Richmond who contributed a great deal to the community and was yet forgotten. When we examine his contributions one would call him a giant for his accomplishments.

He was born on December 19, 1914 in a farm house near the corner of No. 1 Road and Garry Street in Steveston. His grandmother was Annie Blair. Noel was raised on a farm on No. 3 Road between Steveston Highway and the dyke. He attended Bridgeport School, and possibly Cambie School, until grade 10.

Noel had an interest in photography and opened up a small shop on Moncton Street, named Steveston Photo Craft, in October 1948. During the flood in the Fraser Valley, in May 1948, Noel and a friend took aerial

photographs, Noel piloting, and his friend photographing. In August 1953 Noel moved his family and his business to 12151 First Avenue and renamed the business Richmond Photo. The business began processing film brought in by private individuals. It expanded to collecting films from various drug stores, and photographing weddings and portraits throughout Richmond. Richmond Photos took the class photos for all the schools in Richmond in the 1950's and 1960's. Noel was very creative in that he made reel mounts of his photographs for "ViewMasters" of the day.

He housed a library in his place of business for the residents of Steveston in the 1950's. He was extremely giving of his time as he was a major player in Steveston.

He was a founding member of the Steveston Community Society. He was the Chairman of the Building Committee in 1952. In 1955 he was elected President of the

Steveston Community Society. In 1957 he was 1st Vice President of the Executive Board of Directors that oversaw the Board of Directors of the day, liking to the Trustees today. At the same time he was co-chair of the audit committee for the society. Also, he was on the fund raising committee for the Community Centre and was instrumental in helping reach the Society's goals.

In 1956 he represented Steveston as a member of the Town Planning Commission which was formed to advise Municipal Council on planning matters. From 1957 to 1963 he was a member of the newly formed Advisory Planning Commission for Richmond.

Noel retired to Salt Spring Island in 1969, and Richmond Photos went out of business. He died on March 10, 1990. McConnell's daughter, Pat Lewis, says "he left Richmond with many photographs depicting its history for which we are ever grateful."



Noel McConnell circa 1955.



One of 44 "Personal ViewMaster" reels donated to the Archives documenting community events in Steveston in the 1950s. *Graham Turnbull photograph.*



Wedding Photography – Roberta and Fred Dimand, 1956. *City of Richmond Archives Photo # 1985 184 50*



School Class Photography – Lord Byng School, div. 15, 1963. *City of Richmond Archives Photo # 1990 16 18*



Sports Team Photography – Fox Realty Bantam Lacrosse Team, 1968. *City of Richmond Archives Photo # 1986 33-1 16*

Bill McNulty is a local historian and has published three books on sports and one on local history. He is a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians and has served on Richmond City Council since 1993. He has been a member of Rotary since 1988. He is the author of the book "Steveston: A Community History", commissioned by the Steveston Community Society, which was released on May 12, 2011.



Around the Community Centre

Fitness Programs at the Centre!

by Donna Bishop, Fitness Coordinator

Instructor Profile: Sara Lauridsen

Zumba is one of the most popular group fitness classes going. Steveston Fitness is pleased to introduce a new instructor, Sara Lauridsen.

How long have you been in the fitness industry?

I started studying fitness theory a year and a half ago and have been teaching for around a year. Prior to that I was designing weightlifting routines as a personal study.

How long teaching Zumba?

For nine months. I had never even taken a Zumba class before I got my license! But I fell in love instantly.

Do you have a dance background?

I studied dance (salsa, swing, hip hop) recreationally when I was younger. I developed that into teaching dance fitness. In university I studied music (jazz specifically) so I have a lot of rhythm in my history.

Why do you like teaching Zumba?

I love the music first and foremost. It's intoxicating. And I can totally get behind any form of fitness where people are having too much fun to realize they're exercising. I love sharing the laughter that Zumba brings.

Why do you like teaching at the community Centre?

Great people! Everyone gives me 100% even if they think they look silly - and really, we all do. I love the community aspect at Steveston.

What are your hobbies/interests, other jobs?

Obviously I like to dance, so in my spare time I do bellydancing and Lindy hop. I play bass, and I'm also a bit of a poetry geek. In addition to teaching Zumba and dance fitness, I teach spin, aquafit, and other forms of group fitness. I like to keep myself busy!

I'm thrilled to be at Steveston and I hope everyone stops in to spread a little music and joy with me. Keep smiling!

WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS SPRING AND SUMMER AT STEVESTON:

RUN CLUB: This is a free class! We are growing in numbers. If you can run 30 minutes, you have enough of a base to join us for our runs. The class runs Tuesdays and Fridays (after April 19th) at 8:00am, and Sundays at



Steveston Fitness instructor Sara Lauridsen

7:00am. Meet up on Tuesday and Friday at the front desk of the community centre and Sunday in front of the Moncton Street entrance.

Why Run Club? It is motivating and fun to run with other people. All pace groups are welcome.

GIANT FITNESS CLASS FOR CANCER: Come and join all the wonderful Richmond fitness instructors for the 10th annual cancer fundraiser in memory of Carrie Beaman.

This fun-filled circuit-type fitness class will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 9:00am at the Steveston Community Centre.

This year we are featuring one of Richmond's most popular Zumba instructors, Janet Betteridge. Janet will start the event with a Zumba warm-up that will get you energized for the rest of the morning.

Entry is by donation to the BC Cancer Research Centre and Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association, Fitness Instructor Bursary Fund.

STRENGTH AND YOGA: New for summer! Learn strength routines using dumb bells, bands and body weight followed by a de-stressing yoga stretch. Look for this class and more in the Summer Leisure Guide.

EARLY MORNING SPINNING: Start your day with a cardio workout that will surpass any you may do on your own in the gym. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6:30am. Join us for this intense 45 minute session for maximum calorie burn.

The Winter/Spring Recreation & Culture Guide is now 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 PRESCHOOLS!

Its never too late to sign up your child for preschool! There are a few spaces available for the current school year. Call 604-238-8080 for details.

General Public Preschool Registration for the 2013-14 school year is Saturday, April 20th at 9:00am.

Drop by the community centre or visit our website for more information and to view the Parent Reference Guide. www.stevestoncommunitysociety.com

Educational Garden

The Education Garden is really starting to take shape. The grow boxes are being installed and very soon will be bursting with all sorts of interesting plants. The boxes will be constructed at several heights to accommodate all levels of mobility. Seniors will be able to comfortably work alongside preschoolers in this very well designed space.

Beginning in the summer, there will be urban gardening classes offered to the public and for all ages. Check the summer Leisure Guide, or enquire at the Community Centre.

The Educational Garden also has a blog site that is in the early stages of development. Here, our master gardeners will post articles about the garden and of gardening in general. Visit <http://edugarden.stevestoncommunitysociety.com/> to keep informed as our garden grows.

Volunteer Corner

The Impact of Volunteers

by Patricia Toti, Volunteer Coordinator

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, state/provincial 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> Retrieved February 6, 2013

Steveston Salutes our Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week April 21 to 27, 2013

THANK YOU and thunderous applause to everyone who volunteers for the Steveston Community Society!



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

Steveston Educational Garden: A hearty team of volunteers has completed construction of the garden beds; installation and further construction will continue over the coming weeks. The Educational Garden is expected to be complete by mid-April. An official opening celebration is planned for May 5.



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

The winter edition of Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market is winding down to make way for the summer outdoor market. The final indoor market dates are March 10, April 7 and 21 from 11am to 4pm inside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. The summer outdoor market will open May 19 and will operate bi-weekly from 10:00am to 4:00pm until September, 2013.

Vendor applications are available on our website or from the Steveston Community Centre. If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the SFAM, please contact our Market Managers:

Tel: 604-729-7326 or marketmanager@sfam.ca

Visit our website www.sfam.ca

Remaining Winter Market Dates:

March 24; April 7, 21

11:00am-4:00pm

2013 Summer Market Dates:

May 19; June 2, 16;

July 7, 21; August 4, 18;

September 1, 15, 29

10:00am to 4:00pm

Third Avenue and Moncton Street



Around the Village

...continued from page 1

Even if the students don't continue practicing judo they will have learned a way to be safe and respectful in the world.

In celebration of Steveston Judo Club's 60th anniversary, 33 people, including students, coaches, veteran members, parents and family members, will travel to Japan for 12 days. The group will leave on March 18th, arriving in Wakayama on March 19th before embarking on a busy tour including visits to Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Tokai University in Hiratsuka, and concluding the trip in Tokyo for four days before leaving for home on April 2nd. The tour will include visits to diverse cities and villages, giving the athletes an opportunity to learn so much more about Japan's history, culture, geography and people than could ever be gleaned from a book or the internet. The athletes will stay in the homes of Japanese families, allowing for a full cultural immersion experience.

The group's first stop, Wakayama, is culturally significant because it has been the City of Richmond's sister city since 1973. The group will visit Miyo Mura Village, which means "American Miyo". This very significant small fishing village is located within the Wakayama Prefecture. Gihei Kuno, a fisherman from Miyo Mura, was the first Japanese immigrant to come to Steveston in 1888. Within seven years after his arrival more than half the population of Miyo Mura had moved to Steveston. The Kuno Japanese



Dr. Jigoro Kano founded judo in Japan in 1882.

Garden at Garry Point Park was named after him. Prior to World War II, about three quarters of Steveston's population was from the Wakayama Prefecture. On a hill near the village there is a museum where most of the artefacts are from Steveston. There is also an arrow on top of the hill that points in the direction of Steveston.

The group will then go to Osaka, Japan's third largest city, to visit a Judo club there. Next stop will be Kyoto, one of the oldest and most famous Asian metropolises and formerly the Imperial capital; an enchanting city that has preserved much of its history and is a living example of Japanese aesthetic, culture and history. The buildings are primarily traditional two storey Japanese architecture. There are gardens and one thousand shrines and temples to visit including the Golden Pavilion. The group will then spend two days in Hiroshima visiting the Hiroshima Peace

Memorial Museum and the Dome to learn about what happened when an atomic bomb was dropped in that city in 1945. Steveston Judo Club students have been asked use the internet before the trip to look up Kyoto and Hiroshima, so that they will have some understanding of the historical significance of those two cities.

The tour continues with a visit to Tokai University in Hiratsuka City, the strongest Judo University and sister club to Steveston Judo Club for the last 40 years. Then on to the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo. Steveston Judo Club judokas will train in this one-of-a-kind facility where there are 500 judo mats on springs located on the top floor. The guests from Steveston will also have an opportunity to meet Mr. Haruki Uemura, President of the Kodokan Judo Institute and All Japan Judo Federation.

The club members and parents have been raising money for four years to make this trip to Japan a reality. They held hotdog sales at the Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market, and bottle and can drives.

Of course none of this could happen without the support of many sponsors. Steveston Judo Club extends their gratitude to: Canfisco, Coast Capital Savings, Gulf & Fraser Financial Group, Ron May, Steveston Community Society, and Steveston Rotary Club. A great big round of applause for the sponsors who helped to make this incredible trip possible!

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

This spring, Britannia Shipyards, National Historic Site of Canada is offering new heritage-based programs. Visitors can learn new maritime skills, explore the unique local industrial and social history through tours, or visit the site as a family and play games, make maritime crafts and listen to sailor tales.

Britannia showcases a community of boatyards, canneries, residences and stores from a time when fishing and boatbuilding were flourishing industries on the Fraser River. City of Richmond staff and volunteers work together to preserve and restore the shipyard and surrounding buildings as an active wooden boat centre and waterfront park. There are fourteen buildings in the 8.14 acre park, some constructed as early as 1885. Exhibits in the buildings interpret the area's

industrial heritage and the stories of many cultures that called Britannia home.

Spring at Britannia

Maritime Discovery: March 20-22, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Crafts, games, sailor tales and sea shanties. \$10 per day. (Families/children 6-12) Registration required.

Boat Preparation and Maintenance: March 27, 7:00-9:00pm. Maintenance tips to ensure trouble-free boating. Registration required, \$5.

Green Boating: April 10, 7:00-9:00pm. The Strait of Georgia is an estuary that is Canada's "most at risk environment". Learn how to adopt green boating practices that will support our amazing inland sea. Registration required, \$5.

Cooking While Cruising: April 17, 7:00-

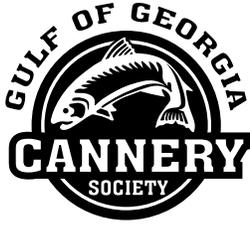
9:00pm. Discover tips for provisioning and creating flavourful meals. Registration required, \$5.

Doors Open Richmond 2013 FREE! May 4 & 5, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Discover new exhibits and free activities during the 5th annual Doors Open celebration. For more information, visit: www.Richmond.ca/doors-open

Mrs. Murakami's Garden: May 12 (Mother's Day), 10:00-11:30am. Join us for a tour of Mrs. Murakami's garden and then make a gift for your mother by planting a flower seed in an environmental paper pot. Registration required, \$10.

Register in person, call 604-276-4300, or on-line: www.richmond.ca/register

Around the Village



Coming Events at the Cannery

Now until April 30, 2013: Natural Capital Exhibit. Emily Carr University of Art + Design, in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation and in collaboration with the Ontario College of Art and Design University, present this interactive community mapping and storytelling project. The project includes a series of 15 digital narratives that bring to life research the David Suzuki Foundation recently launched on the "Natural Capital" provided by wetlands in the Vancouver region, while digging into the meaning this has for people in their day-to-day lives. These digital narratives feature stories from diverse community members who highlight the priceless cultural services of these areas.

Elements of the project's unique web platform hosting all this content is available to explore in the exhibit through interactive stations, where users can watch and navigate between different videos, while learning more about Vancouver's precious wetlands and the lost salmon-bearing streams and creeks of Vancouver.

March 16 – April 1: Spring Break at the Cannery

Parents and kids will find lots to do at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site this Spring Break. Daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., a host of activities will be taking place inside. Kids can take part in maritime-related crafts or join our popular guided tours through the fascinating history of the Cannery, which run every hour on the hour.

March 30: Easter Scavenger Hunt

Kids, get ready to take part in a scavenger hunt for plastic eggs that have been hidden throughout the Cannery. Along the way you'll learn about Steveston's fishing history. At the end of the scavenger hunt exchange the eggs for prizes.

www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com

604.664.9009

Artists in Steveston: Michael Shirley

Michael Shirley is and has been, for many years, a primary source of artistic support for Steveston.

Michael and his wife, Linda, opened *The Arts Connection* 23 years ago to serve community needs for children's art, music and dance instruction. In more recent years, they opened *Paddington Station*, a preschool and kindergarten on No.2 Road.

Michael always loved the arts starting with drawing and painting at an early age. In high school he took private art lessons. Linda also comes from an arts background and together their life has been focused primarily on the arts. Under the encouragement of Michael, his 12-year-old granddaughter, Alexa, is also quite a blossoming artist.

Michael worked in retail for 34 years doing interior design and window display design. Many of his creations were featured in *Inspiration* magazine and he won several awards. Since then, while pursuing his love of painting, he managed the Richmond *Galleria*. The Galleria was a colourful gallery full of artists' work in pottery, painting and hand crafts.

Last November, The Arts Connection and Paddington Station were amalgamated to become *The Arts Connection/Renaissance Kids*. The facility was beautifully renovated into a 17,000 square foot learning centre. Linda is CEO and Michael has been instrumental with the decor as well as building two new playgrounds for the kids. Michael has painted many expansive lovely landscapes and figurative works, some of which enhance the walls of school. He and Linda are quite enthusiastic about the new and exciting direction they are taking the learning centre.

Renaissance Kids is an early learning programme for infants, toddlers, preschool and kindergarten children. It is a fine arts school where the primary focus is academics. The Renaissance was a time in history when humans started to branch out into the arts and scientific learning, hence Renaissance Kids. The Arts Connection vision is to introduce more children to dance, music, pottery, art instruction and theater. Renaissance Kids students are also welcome to participate in programmes similar to those offered by The Arts Connection.

In this environment, where many after school classes are offered, there is an emphasis on children getting a head start. The school serves children from early learning through full day kindergarten plus, before and after school care for elementary age children. Future plans are to serve adult and seniors needs in various fields of arts and wellness. As I toured the school, I saw many outstanding art projects by the children on the shelves and walls.

Michael can be reached by email: Papoo65@gmail.com. To contact The Arts Connection/Renaissance Kids, visit www.theartsconnection.org or 604-241-0141

Written by Betsy Randel a writer and artist living in Steveston. Betsy's website is www.artthatheals.org

**If you are an artist, or know of one who lives and/or works in Steveston who would like to be featured here, please email editor@stevestoncommunitysociety.com or call 604-377-6926*



Sunshine Wall by Michael Shirley

Coming Events

Easter Party: March 30th from 10:00am to 11:30 am. This is a fun event at the Steveston Community Centre with an Easter egg hunt, crafts, games and a visit from the Easter Bunny! \$9.00. Register online now while spots are still available! www.richmond.ca/register

Car Boot Sale: A great way to clear your home of what you no longer want! Remember that one person's junk is another person's treasure! Sunday, May 26th from 9:00am to 12:00pm Steveston Community Centre Parking lot. \$10.00 per stall; rain or shine. Register in person or by phone at the Steveston Community Centre, 604 238-8080

Steveston Gets Social!

If you are a frequent user of social media, you'll want to "Like" www.facebook.com/#socialsteveston. The page has been established by a group of community members as a hub for conversation, news and activity sharing for everyone living and working in Steveston. And, if you are on twitter and talking about the community, use the hashtag #socialsteveston! Let's get social!

Steveston Community Society Board of Directors 2013-14

Beth Ovenden, President
Alan Clark, Vice President
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Doors Open: Steveston Tram Barn Opening

As part of Doors Open Richmond 2013, an evening of music, heritage, and performance is planned for Friday, May 3, 2013 at 7:00pm.

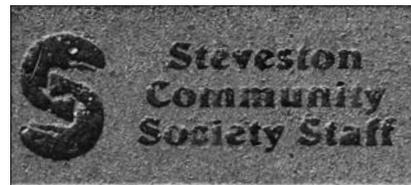
This special event will serve as a kick-off celebration and opening of the newly constructed No. 1220 Tram Building in Steveston.

Doors Open Richmond is embarking upon its 6th year of celebrating Richmond's arts, culture and heritage. Visit www.richmond.ca/doorsopen for details about the kick-off and weekend events across the city.

Steveston Park Millennium Brick

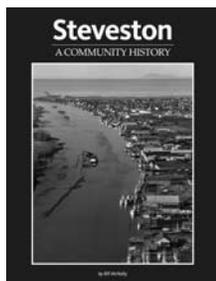
The brick path has been temporarily removed while the new tram building is being constructed, but we're still taking your orders for installation this spring!

Each brick is \$100 including tax. The order form is available on-line at www.stevestoncommunitysociety.com or at the front counter in the community centre.



Steveston United Church Curio/Plant/Bake Sale

Steveston United Church is holding a Curio/Plant/Bake Sale on Saturday, May 25, 2013 from 10:00am until noon at 3720 Broadway Street (at Second Avenue). Volunteers are working hard baking and gathering perennial plants for the sale. There will be many curio items for sale as well, including bone china cups and saucers, porcelian figurines, and other similar items.



Steveston: A Community History by Bill McNulty

**Pick up your copy today at the
Steveston Community Centre!**

\$20 suggested donation.

Part proceeds in support of the Japan Relief Fund for Onagawa.



Sunday, March 31st, 2013

2:00 - 4:00 pm

7th Annual Steveston Village Easter Egg Hunt

Bring the kids to the village for some Easter fun!

Remember to bring a basket to collect
treats from participating businesses.

Discover what other EGG-CITING
events await you!



For event details visit

www.exploresteveston.com