

A New Home for Interurban Tram #1220

by Rebecca Forrest, Curator, Richmond Museum & Heritage Services

If you have recently walked or driven by the corner of No. 1 Road and Moncton Street in Steveston, you will have noticed a building emerging. The City of Richmond has commissioned Birmingham & Wood Architects and Scott Special Projects Ltd. to design and build this new structure, which will house the #1220 Interurban Tram. In addition to providing a permanent home for the Tram, the building will include a community meeting room and restoration space, which will be converted into programming space once restoration of the Tram is complete.

This 2370 square foot building will feature 27 foot high windows that will invite the community to watch the Tram restoration process. It also houses a winch system to allow the Tram to be pulled out of the building for special events. The building will feature public art created by artist, Mia Weinberg. Weinberg, a graduate of Emily Carr University of Art and Design (1994), has created a map of the original 1956 BC Electric Richmond tram line and stations. This artwork will be integrated into the floor of the outdoor platform at the main entrance of the building.

The Interurban Tram #1220 is the largest and arguably the most iconic artefact in the City of Richmond Artefact Collection. Built in 1913 by the St. Louis Car Company, the #1220 was purchased by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company. Richmond residents relied on the Tram for transportation to work, school, social and sporting events



Steveston Interurban Tram #1220, circa. 1950. City of Richmond Archives, 1999 4 3 1327

such as lacrosse and the popular racetracks at Minoru and Lansdowne. In 1958 the Marpole-Steveston Line was discontinued due to competition from privately owned automobiles and the increasing popularity of buses for passengers and trucks for moving freight. With the tram disappearing from Richmond's landscape over fifty years ago, the new tram building and restoration project, scheduled to begin in 2013, will bring new opportunities for the community to experience Richmond's transportation history.

If you would like to volunteer to be involved in the restoration process of the Tram please send an expression of interest to interurbantram@richmond.ca



Framing goes up and the building starts to take shape, September 2012. Scott Special Projects Ltd.



The roof and siding are installed, October 2012. Scott Special Projects Ltd.

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
Preschool News.....	4
Steveston Educational Garden	5
Volunteer Corner.....	5
Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market.....	5
Around the Village.....	6-7
Essential People: Paul Sigurgeirson.....	6
Gulf of Georgia Cannery News	7
Artists in Steveston: Jil Ashton-Leigh	7
Winter Break Camps.....	8
Robbie Burns Supper	8
Steveston Rotary Club Events	8
Eating Together	8
Millennium Brick.....	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.

Editor-in-Chief

Christine Durgo

editor@stevestoncommunitysociety.com

Design and Layout Editor

Janice Froese

admin@stevestoncommunitysociety.com

Contributors

Donna Bishop Rebecca Forrest
Margie Hardy Rob Hart
Bill McNulty Betsy Randel

Steveston Community Society

4111 Moncton Street

Richmond, BC V7E 3A8

Ph: 604-238-8094 Fax: 604-718-8096

www.stevestoncommunitysociety.com

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,

Steveston has had another great year of growth and prosperity. There are many changes happening at the community centre including the addition of the new tram barn and our long-awaited educational garden project. As a Society, we continue to look for ways to support this community both inside and outside the community centre, and we welcome your input for the future.

2013 is already shaping up to be another busy year of activities. We will be hosting the 3rd Annual Eating Together Dinner on March 6, and the tram building and garden will both open around the same time. The Steveston Judo Club celebrates their 60th Anniversary, and we're already working on the 68th Salmon Festival. The Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market is open bi-weekly inside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, and moves outside on the May long weekend. We encourage you to visit the market and support our local farmers and artisans. Dates can be found on the website www.sfam.ca

Another exciting project we are working on is the re-development of our website. Early in the new year we will launch a new website for the Society, which will include a blog, so we can offer more timely news and updates on the activities in and around the community centre. The blog will eventually replace this newsletter by the fall of 2013, however we will still provide a printed copy for anyone who requests it.

Our annual general meetings are scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7:00pm. Anyone registered in a program at the community centre is a member of this Society. I encourage you to come out to the meeting and find out more about how your board of directors serves this community on your behalf. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to serve on a committee or our board. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can become involved, please email us at society@stevestoncommunitysociety.com.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Steveston Community Society, I wish you a peaceful holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous new year. Thank you for your continued support, and thanks to our many volunteers who dedicate their valuable time and expertise to this community.

Jim Kojima, President

Steveston Community Society and

Richmond Agricultural & 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 21, 2013 at 7:00pm in the Seiner Room at the Steveston Community Centre, 4111 Moncton Street, Richmond.

Steveston Community Society Board of Directors 2012-13

Jim Kojima, President

Beth Ovenden, Vice President

Denise Kostash, Secretary

Scott Wilson, Treasurer

Ben Branscombe, Past President

Directors

Alan Clark, Alan Sakai, Barb Nimchuk,

Barbara Whittle, Brenda Yttri, Cheryl Grattan,

DeAnn McBride, Elise Kobylanski,

Frances Lorenz, Jimmy Yau, Joan Haws,

Johanna Stewart, Karen Schiefner,

Keith Whittle, Lingly Wilson, Maureen Duns,

Neil McEachern, Susan Epp, Tracy Paldy

Trustees

Hap Hirata, Kelvin Higo, Ted Lorenz Sr.

City Council Liaison

Linda McPhail



McNulty's Meanderings...by Bill McNulty

Ken Fraser

Many of us did not know the man but heard stories of his contribution to the community of Steveston. From what I have heard and read he was a man ahead of his time.

Ken Fraser was the former Manager and President of B.C. Packers. There were three generations of Frasers who at one time in their lives were employed in the fishing industry.

In 1882, his father, Frank V. Fraser, came to BC and went into logging with two partners. Then, in 1894, his father was involved in the fishing industry on the Nass River. He built a cannery at Princess Royal Island near Klemta, which he later sold to BC Packers. In 1904 Fraser senior came to Imperial Cannery in Steveston as fishing superintendent with the company.

Ken was born in 1910 in Vancouver. He attended Lord Byng School. He went to UBC for two years, while working at Imperial Cannery at the same time.

Ken Fraser started in the industry working for a Chinese contractor in 1923, which was before the minimum age came into the industry. His first job paid eight cents an hour and a bonus two cents if he stayed all season. He recalled that there were some very prominent Chinese contractors, including Mr. Woo Shoo at Imperial, Mr. Chong Dot, Mr. Charlie Soobie and Mr. Mah Bing. The Chinese contractors were responsible for keeping track of the employee's time, who were primarily First Nation and Japanese. In 1923 the canneries didn't have the vacuum closing machine. He worked on another machine called the "clincher" which put the lids on cans. The vacuum machine was introduced in 1926. After working many aspects of the industry, he became Vice President of Production for BC Packers in 1955, and in 1964, he was appointed President of BC Packers.

On July 16, 1946, the Governor General of Canada, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, visited BC Packers Imperial Cannery in Steveston, which was the largest in the British Empire. Fraser, who was Manager at that time, received them and toured the entourage around the facility.

On March 31, 1949 the BC Legislature

passed a law allowing Japanese-Canadians to return to the coast, however, they could only come during the fishing season. Twenty-eight fishermen returned to Steveston in 1949. At the request of BC Packers, Fraser was quick to give them employment with the company.

In 1946, when Anna Rolston suggested that the Steveston Community Society have a Salmon Queen Contest, the only cannery manager who came forward was Ken Fraser of BC Packers. He thought a Salmon Queen Contest was a good idea. Fraser went so far as to put on a luncheon for all those who wanted to be involved. The rest is history, as the pageant continued until 1994.

Fraser was instrumental in the building of the Steveston Community Centre. The Society held an Indignation meeting on November 23, 1948. Fraser, then Chairman of the building committee, gave a report on the activities of the committee. In his remarks he "deplored the lack of interest shown by the residents of Steveston and the district in the Steveston Community Society," stating he would "hesitate to have anything to do with a building program until more interest is shown." He said that with the assets the society had, and the possibility of its members raising \$1,800 between December 1 and April 1, 1949, there was no reason why the community building should not commence in 1949. The community did not respond.

Ken served as Chairman, Ways and Means Committee, for the building of the community centre from 1948 for many years. In 1951 he was named trustee of the Society. Ken continued to sit on the building and fundraising committees to see the project through.

On February 24, 1952, the first meeting of the Japanese-Canadian Citizenship Association was held with Mr. Hayashi as acting chairman, assisted by Mr. G. Otsu and Mr. D. Tamemoto as co-chairmen. The first topic of discussion was the proposed Steveston Community Centre. Mr. Otsu told the group how badly the centre was needed. Then, the meeting was privileged to have as their next speaker Mr. Ken Fraser. He spoke briefly on the same topic. He expressed the need for a community center ever since the turn of the decade. He also stressed the fact that it would be a center for all nationalities. He asked the full cooperation of the Japanese, and after taking a vote from those present, found it was unanimous.



Portrait of Ken Fraser 1957. City of Richmond Archives 2001 34 9-4

When the bylaw for the community centre passed on September, 22, 1956, the Society turned over their trust account of \$40,000 to the municipality. Ken Fraser, Reeve Ray Parsons and Nels Gordon were part of the cheque presentation. In November 1957 when the centre opened, Ken Fraser was one of those honored.

His service to the Salmon Festival and Community Society and the community of Steveston cannot be measured. It was through his dedication and commitment that Steveston prospered.



Cheque presentation to the Municipality from the Steveston Community Society from left to right Ken Fraser, Reeve Pat Parsons, Nels Gordon. City of Richmond Archives Photograph 1985 68 1

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 is Past President of the Steveston Rotary Club and 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

Feature Instructor: Jeannie Mansell

You can hear Jeannie down the hall from the spinning room, motivating and giving instructions to her group cycling classes. Jeannie teaches spin, yoga, bootcamp, aqua-size, and is a personal trainer.

Jeannie's experience with BMX racing is a great asset to have as a group cycling instructor. Here is her story:

Although I love to teach fitness classes, my guilty secret is that I also love to race BMX (Bicycle Motocross). The thrill begins when the race call is initiated. For the eight ladies loaded into the gate it is time to get serious and balance for the random gate drop. The race itself is short – 45 seconds or so, however the practice and skill are physically demanding. BMX racing is a very family oriented sport; no one has to sit out. Moms and dads, older and younger kids, amateur and professional levels all race on the same track! The most entertaining races are when the Olympic level athletes come and race along with us.

I have been actively racing since 2008. My racing career has taken me from local competitions to provincial and national competitions. The highlight so far was having



Fitness Instructor Jeannie Mansell is also a competitive BMX racer. Photo courtesy of Tony Lyons

the opportunity to represent Canada at the World Championships 2012 last May in Birmingham, UK.

My achievements for this year are: Women Cruiser 45+ - Canada National Champion #1, BC Champion #2, and BC Cup Series #1; Women Cruiser Track Attack Series Overall #3 (from all age groups!).

Drop by the Community Centre and check out our fitness class schedule to find out when Jeannie teaches her classes. You are guaranteed to sweat and have a good time doing it!

Sport Medicine Sun Run In-Training Clinics Starts Soon!

Sport Medicine Sun Run In-Training Clinics start in January throughout the province. Steveston Community Centre offers two clinics: Sundays at 9am and Fridays at 9:30am.

Whether you are a “wanna be” runner, a runner wanting to improve your speed, or a walker who wants to go the distance, these clinics are the right fit.

The In-Training clinics have proven over the years to provide a safe and enjoyable experience. It is a fact that people are more apt to stick to a fitness program when they do it in a group setting.

Steveston Friday now offers a “Learn to Walk 10km” program

Check out the Winter/Spring Leisure Guide and register for a Sunday or Friday morning Sun Run In-training clinic. www.richmond.ca/register

Feature Training Staff: Victor Ngo

Victor is a new trainer to the Steveston Community Centre. He is a registered BCRPA personal trainer and certified under the American Council on Exercise, and Functional Movement Screen (FMS). He is passionate about helping others achieve their fitness goals because he was once in their shoes. He believes that pain-free movement is the foundation to good health. Victor also focuses on strength and condition and plans to compete at the next BC Powerlifting Winter Open. His philosophy is to train weaknesses, limitations, and imbalances - then other goals such as weight loss will come naturally.

His knowledge in the Functional Movement Screen (FMS) allows him to focus on an individual's limitations. The FMS puts a

STEVESTON PRESCHOOLS!

There are a few spaces still available for the current school year. Call 604-238-8080 for details.

OPEN HOUSE: Preschool & Two's Time Open House Wednesday, January 30th 6:00-8:00pm. Come and attend a parent information session in the Great West Room at either 6:00pm or 7:00pm and then go and explore the classes and meet the teachers.

Visit our website for more information and to view the Parent Reference Guide. www.stevestoncommunitysociety.com



Victor Ngo, our newest member of the training staff.

client through seven fundamental movement patterns which challenges a balance of mobility and stability. The screen is designed to bring out limitations and imbalances. This allows for a tailored program that addresses your personal weaknesses through a combination of corrective exercises and strength and condition.

If you are interested the Functional Movement Screen or Personal Training, please contact the Community Centre fitness office at 604-238-8097 to book an appointment.

Victor also has a fitness and health blog, follow him at: www.victorngo.com.

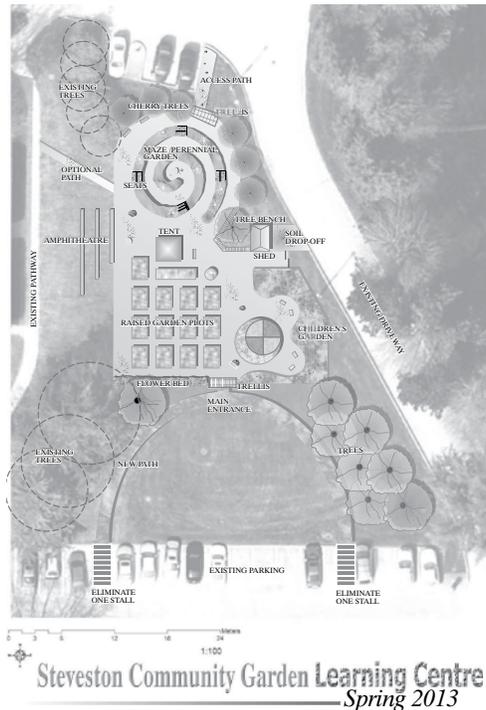
Steveston Educational Garden

A stunning new project is in the works right now! The organic and artistically tasteful vision, germinated a few years ago, is finally coming to fruition in the spring of 2013. The inspiring Steveston Educational Garden is currently being installed on the lawn east of the Martial Arts Centre next to the community centre parking lot. The north entrance to the demonstrational garden will be studded with ornamental cherry trees. A few fruit trees are to be planted along the east side of the garden in the future. A fun and educational opportunity for children will be found at the pizza garden. Herbs, tomatoes and other ingredients used to make pizza will be grown in a pizza shaped garden bed.

The Educational Garden is being installed with a basic plan, but will be a work in progress. Future ideas and learning opportunities will be guided by the teacher/learner interaction as ideas unfold in real time. Plenty of thought has gone into the idea that even people living in apartments or condominiums, with very little space, can grow their own food in containers. Beginning in late spring, volunteer teachers at the garden will lead workshops on how to get started and be successful growing in small spaces.

The location was chosen specifically as a walk-to destination easily within reach for all Steveston residents. Children, adults and seniors with all levels of ability will be able to move around comfortably within the garden and experience pleasant social interactions, as it has been designed with very wide walkways between the raised bed planters. The surface will be packed and firm enough for wheelchairs and walkers to be manoeuvred safely and with ease. The raised bed planters are to be of varied heights in order to allow people and youngsters of all sizes and abilities to relax and enjoy the area comfortably. There will also be natural looking amphitheater type seating installed on the berm west of the garden.

Planting will begin in the spring of 2013



with the help of volunteers, essential to the success of the project. As we continue to develop the Steveston Educational Garden project, we look forward to having community input and involvement. This project will benefit greatly from citizens participating in discussions, providing gardening expertise, contributing volunteer efforts and through the sharing of thoughts and ideas. Please consider how you might be able to help and watch for updates to be posted to the Steveston Community Society website. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please email edugarden@stevestoncommunitysociety.com

This project has been made possible by the generous support of many, including: The Government of Canada, New Horizons for Seniors; Gulf & Fraser Credit Union; City of Richmond; Steveston Salmon Festival; Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market; and the Steveston Community Society.

STEVESTON & Farmers Artisans MARKET

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

The winter edition of Steveston Farmers & Artisans Market is now inside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. Your last chance to shop the SFAM for unique holiday gifts is December 16. The market will then take a short break, and re-open on Sunday, February 10, bi-weekly until April 21, 2013.

We will continue to offer all your favourites including artisan breads, seasonal produce, home canning and baking, and of course the delightful artistry of our talented community! We hope to see you there!

The summer outdoor market will open Sunday, May 19, 2013. Vendor applications will be available on our website in January.

Applications are being accepted for the 2012-13 winter market and are available at the Steveston Community Centre or on our website. 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

Winter Market Dates:

December 2, 16;

February 10, 24;

March 10, 24; April 7, 21

11am - 4pm ~ Dress for cold!

Volunteer Corner



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



A Family of Mariners and Master Boat Builders

A quiet, unassuming man of Icelandic descent, Paul Sigurgeirson learned how to design and build boats from his father. Paul's home is filled with beautiful, detailed scale models depicting seagoing craft that have touched his life over the years. Paul and his wife, Airi, have grandchildren who are proud owners of child-sized models crafted in his woodworking shop. It is interesting to note that Airi's father also built gillnetter fishing boats.



Paul Sigurgeirson poses with a model of the *Nobel Savage*, a 40' gillnetter built by his father between 1946 and 1948. An incredible amount of detail goes into what many would think of as a toy, but is truly one of the beginning steps in the process of constructing a full sized seafaring vessel. Paul fished on the *Nobel Savage* for a year or so in the early 1960's.

For three generations the family tradition of working on and around large bodies of water and the fishing industry runs deep. Paul's father, Geiri Sigurgeirson, who started sailing at the age of nine with his father, (also a boat builder) believed that a person had to be a sailor in order to design a good boat. Members of the Sigurgeirson family would build a scale model and test it in the water before starting construction of the actual vessel. Beginning with Paul's grandfather, the family had a specific standard: that the frames supporting and shaping the hull be no more than five or six feet apart, depending on the size and design of the craft. Paul emphasised that the planking of the hull and decks took the most time to complete. They used edge grain cedar and bent the long planks into shape with steam.

Paul's father was born on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg in 1893. After years of sailing and building boats on that very lake, the Sigurgeirson family moved to Steveston in 1942, and in 1943, Geiri Sigurgeirson built his first fishing boat here. The elder Sigurgeirson built 40 gillnetters and trawlers in Steveston over the span of his career. At the age of nine, Paul started working with his father building boats. After school he and his brother Bill, worked the wood, puttied and sanded. In 1991, Paul's brother built *Mikley*, a 44' trawler, the last wooden boat to be constructed in Steveston. There were three articles published about *Mikley*; two in the "West Coast Fisherman" and one in the "National Fisherman". Paul's uncle Jake (his dad's brother) also designed and built boats. His nephew and fisherman Harold Sigurgeirson died while fishing on October 9, 1978 aboard the boat *April*, and was honoured by having his name added to the Fisherman's Memorial Needle at Garry Point this year.

At age 13, Paul started fishing on seiners every summer, and at age 18, for the span of five or six years, crewed on larger boats fishing for herring, halibut and salmon. Paul attended diesel engineering school and upon completion worked as a marine mechanic in Steveston. He followed up by earning his engineering ticket and subsequently worked as Chief Engineer on coastal freighters, ferries and large tug boats.

While on the water, during his free time, Paul would set up his workspace in the engine room and build scale models of boats from original plans. While working on the tug *Jervis Crown* about 18 years ago, Paul built a model of her from the plans that were available on board.

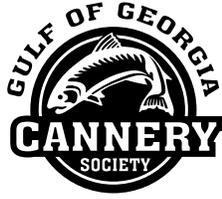
There are six homes in southwest BC, including some on Pender Island, that Paul designed and built. Two of the homes in Steveston are still in the family. Paul and Airi live in one and the home next door is occupied by their grown children and grandchildren. Built years ago the home I was invited into is still better than new. The precise skill required to design and build a seaworthy craft, transferred to the construction of a home is something we would like to see in all of the buildings surrounding us.

In his shop, a few steps from his home, Paul is currently working on a 1"-1' scale model of the *High Venture*, a 39' wood hull craft previously owned and skippered by Joe Bauer, another "Essential" Steveston-ite previously featured in this column. Before selling *High Venture* ten years ago, Joe took all of her measurements with the idea that Paul would build a model for him. Joe is one of Paul's good friends and you will often see them together at Steveston Bakery. Paul Sigurgeirson is a solid and steady "Essential Person of Steveston".

photo and observations by Christine Durgo

Available at the City of Richmond Archives, there is an oral history collection that is a good source for more information about Steveston boat builders and their stories. There are also other files and historical publications available at the Archives for further research.

Around the Village



Coming Events at the Cannery

December 1 to 23: Festival of Trees. In partnership with the Steveston Merchants Association, the Cannery is hosting Christmas trees decorated by local businesses. Come in and vote for your favourite. Bring a canned item for the Richmond Food Bank and receive 2 for 1 admission to the Cannery.

December 3 - 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.

What’s New at the Cannery Store?

Need a good Christmas gift idea for that hard to buy for person? Why not get them a beautiful print of an archival photo! Stop in at the Cannery Store to choose from a selection of preprinted 8 x 10 images for \$10 (plus tax), or check out our online Historic Photo Database (<http://collection.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com>) to choose your own custom print for \$15 (plus tax). To place a custom order, e-mail heidirampfl@pc.gc.ca with the accession number of the image you would like, and we will have the image printed for next-day pick up at the Cannery.

www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com
604.664.9009

Artists in Steveston: Jil Ashton-Leigh

A delightful hidden gem in our Steveston arts community is Jil Ashton-Leigh. A long time school teacher and administrator with hobbies of gardening and screenwriting, Jil always felt she was meant to paint! It took some time, but three and a half years ago she embarked on this new adventure through classes each Saturday at Phoenix Arts with Chris Charlebois, renowned landscape artist. Chris also teaches an older adults painting class at Steveston Community Centre.

Being a school teacher, Jil has summers free and that first summer she produced 27 paintings, taking classes as well and having mentoring sessions with Chris. Jil’s lovely landscapes incorporated Chris’s techniques, but she also was finding her own style.

Jil says that painting opened up a new way of “seeing” for her. Always an avid photographer, photographs of nature, the dyke, the river, skies, fields and farmland here in Steveston provided her with a wealth of material to paint from.

In recent months, Jil has taken classes in abstract painting at Langara College and Shadbolt Centre to work with Judith Atkinson, whom, she says, “introduced me to the wonderful world of color in ways I never thought possible”. Since then, her more muted soft landscapes have taken on many hues and Jil says she feels more adventurous and even more excited in her explorations. Now, rather than painting only from photographs, she is painting from images in her mind’s eye. Her artistic choices have come home to roost in her own beautifully overflowing condo garden where she is deriving recent inspiration for her florals. Seeing her soft muted landscapes, florals and scenes of lilies in ponds, one is reminded of Monet.

After years of teaching and seeing her grown daughter married last summer, Jil says, “this is something I can do just for me”! Jil encourages her fellow art students to enter contests and shows such as the recent Gateway Theatre charity event in which her donated painting sold quickly. “I encourage women to discover art at any age as there can be so much passion in creating later in life.”

Jil’s first solo show in November in White Rock donated partial proceeds to a school in India to raise funds for desks for the children there, who currently sit on concrete floors. “My elementary school class is also having an art show to raise part of the funds needed”, she said.

“The ability to see, one’s perception of life all around us is what has awakened through painting as well as a constant discovery of what art is—learning to see beauty in everything”, says Jil. Painting in summers and on weekends for seven to eight hours is a joy for her. When asked about her plans for her art, she says, “more abstract art, and exploration of the various ways to use acrylic and mixed media, and perhaps some courses at Emily Carr”. Exuberance and joy permeate her face. As she speaks, one feels she would be painting 24/7 if given the opportunity.

“Painting has helped me to become more attentive and attuned to the world around me. It is as if I have undergone an ‘awakening’. There is unspeakable beauty and potential to be found in nature. It entices me and is an invitation I just have to accept.”

Contact Jil by e-mail: jilash@telus.net

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



First Snow by Jil Ashton-Leigh

**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*

Winter Break Camps!

Have fun, make friends, keep active!

6-12 years: Includes day trips, crafts, and games. Please bring a lunch and appropriate clothing.

December 27-28 from 9:00am-4:00pm

Class #244652 ~ \$80.00/2 days

January 2-4 from 9:00am-4:00pm

Class #244653 ~ \$120.00/3 days

3-5 years: Features daily themes, crafts, games, free play and much more. Please bring a snack each day. \$9.30/day ~ 9:00am-11:00am

M December 24 #244661

Th December 27 #244662

F December 28 #244663

M December 31 #244664

W January 2 #244665

Th January 3 #244666

F January 4 #244667

Racquet Sports Camps January 2-4, 2013

Children's Tennis Camp ~ 6-9yrs

#244619 \$36.30 ~ 9:30am-10:30am

Preteens Beginner ~ 9-12 yrs

#244621 \$72.60 ~ 10:30am-12:30pm

Preteens Intermediate ~ 10-12yrs

#244594 \$72.60 ~ 12:30pm-2:30pm

Youth Tennis Camp ~ 13-18yrs

#244623 \$72.60 ~ 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Adults Advanced ~ 18yrs & older

#244551 \$78.60 ~ 3:30pm-5:30pm

Children's Badminton Camp ~ 8-12yrs

#244357 \$20.95 ~ 10:30am-12:00pm

Youth Badminton Camp ~ 13-18yrs

#244359 \$20.95 ~ 12:00pm-1:30pm

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.



Follow us on Twitter: @StevestonCS

facebook

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StevestonCommunityCentre

Robbie Burns Supper!

Back by popular demand after last year's very successful sold out event, its time to press up your best tartan and celebrate Scotland's favourite poet! Our Chairman for the evening is the celebrated personality Mr. Jim Gallacher, who is a commanding but genial host. A traditional Burns Supper Order of Events will be observed. The evening includes bagpipes, Scottish dancing, haggis and a roast beef dinner.

This event relies on the help of many volunteers. If you would like to join our enthusiastic group, please call Margie at 604-718-8098.

Register today! Robbie Burns Supper, Thursday, January 24th, 2013 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. \$50.00 HST included ~ Barcode # 252932 ~ 5:30pm onwards. Book on-line, or call 604-276-4300, or in person at the Steveston Community Centre. Alba gu brath!



Steveston Rotary Club Events

Seniors Christmas Lunch, Sunday, December 16, 1:00pm

The Rotary Club of Steveston is hosting a free Christmas dinner for seniors 65+ on Sunday December 16th from 1:00pm at the Steveston Community Centre. Transportation is available. You MUST register in advance as seating is limited. Call Peter at (604) 277-8882.

Santa Claus Parade, Saturday, December 23, 6:00pm

Starting at 6:00pm at Sixth and Hunt, the parade will weave through old Steveston past Lord Byng School, then east from Third Avenue along Moncton Street to the Steveston Community Centre. Donations of cash or non perishable food for local food programs are welcome.

Eating Together Community Dinner!

Steveston Community Society will host the 3rd Annual "Eating Together" community dinner in partnership with Touchstone Family Association on Sunday, March 6, 2013. Last year's event helped fund a family counsellor for one month.

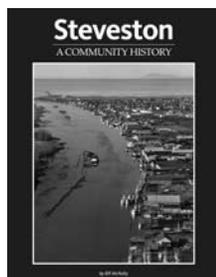
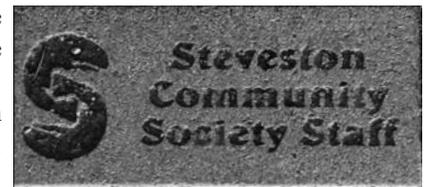
Register today so you don't miss out on this opportunity to share a meal with your neighbours and friends, and support a great community organization that provides many important services to families in Richmond. Course #252873. Register on-line www.richmond.ca/register, by phone at 604-276-4300 or in-person at the community centre. The dinner is set for 5:30-7:30 pm and the fee is \$8 for an adult (18+), \$6 for a youth (13-17) and \$4 for a child (6-12), tots (0-5) are free.

Eating Together is a week-long campaign that aims to encourage families to eat together through a series of activities such as community meals, cooking classes, restaurant participation and awareness information distribution. Join us, as we celebrate families, support families, and build a better community. For more information visit www.eatingtogether.ca.

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 next spring!

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



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.