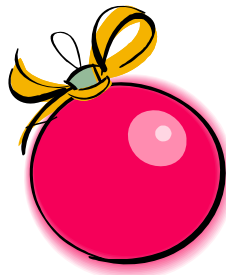


LEAVES Newsletter



Merry Christmas from RHCS

The Future of Riverview	2
Thank You	3
Attn Members	3
BMN meeting	3
Janet Wintermans	3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Donna Crosby - Dec. 2006

In December 2005 a committee was formed to create a vision for the future of the Tree Collection at Riverview. Norma Gillespie, Mary Brown and Donna Crosby from RHCS served on this committee along with Don Gillespie and Elaine Golds from Burke Mountain Naturalists; Doug Justice, UBC Botanical Garden; Michael Nihls, City of Coquitlam; Julian Dunster, Arborist; Ron Simpson, Architect; and Ian Birtwell and Nick Davies from ARES (formerly BCBC).

On January 9/07 Burke Mountain Naturalists will host a meeting which will be open to the public to hear a presentation on "The Riverview Lands Tree Collection Vision". Guest speaker will be Ian Birtwell from the BC Ministry of Labour and Citizen Services (ARES). RHCS members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. It will be held at 7:30 PM at Como Lake United Church, 535 Marmont Street in Coquitlam. A review of the natural areas of the site will be undertaken separately in the near future. Any questions please call Donna at 604-939-4064.

During the recent extreme weather many trees have been damaged at Riverview. We had a report from arborist Julian Dunster listing over 20 trees either down or damaged. Five were listed as a complete loss. By far the biggest loss is tree #449, a large Scarlet Oak, that lost one of its major limbs. This tree is still being assessed to see if it can be saved. The other losses are mostly smaller cherry, crabapple and one Laburnum. However, it is amazing how many trees sustained little or no damage. We can credit this to the undisturbed extensive root systems that anchored them. Nonetheless any loss or damage to the Riverview trees is a concern and we certainly hope this is the end of the wind storms.



On behalf of the executive of RHCS I would like to "Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the very best wishes for the year 2007!"

2007 - Tree Tour Schedule Attached

online newsletters

Would you like to save a tree? View our newsletters online!

In addition to the 2 printed newsletters a year we would like to add 2 more **online only** versions. All will be available online.

The newsletters will be posted on our website in pdf format. A direct link will be sent in an email.

Approximately March, June, September & December

newsletter@rhcs.org

Please email us your **email** address so we can let you know when the latest Newsletter is available online for viewing!

Your email address will be used only to inform you of RHCS news, we will not share your address.



The Future of Riverview

Update, December, 2006

By Sue Haberger

Coquitlam's Riverview Task force committee was reconvened last month to hear a very positive report from councillors Fin Donnelly and Mae Reid on their October 3 meeting with Health Minister George Abbott and local MLA, Diane Thorne. During the meeting, they presented the Minister with a copy of the Task Force Report, "For the Future of Riverview" They feel that the timing is very good for an initiative to develop more housing and care for the mentally ill at Riverview. Also, the possibility of locating Health Region Administrative offices at Riverview was raised.

There has been a great deal of discussion in the media about the problem of housing for the mentally ill, many of whom have ended up homeless and drug-addicted. Premier Gordon Campbell has stated that the initiative to de-institutionalize mental patients has been a failure and new solutions are needed.

In a November 10 Coquitlam NOW article, Reid said Abbott "was pleased to hear that community groups felt Riverview always has been and should always be a place of healing. ... Fin and I left there with a very positive feeling that we had a warm reception, and I just am very hopeful that something positive is going to go forward and we're going to continue on with our work with the task force."



Abbott told a Tri-City News reporter that unlike most municipalities, Coquitlam has indicated it would welcome new residential facilities using the Riverview Hospital property. He also noted it already is the site of one modern mental health facility (Connolly and Cottonwood Lodges). "We would not see the construction of the sort of large warehouse mental health facility that we had in the past at Riverview, but I think by using contemporary standards, using contemporary best practices around the construction of mental health facilities, we could look at Riverview as a potential area for those community health facilities for the Lower Mainland, that is both Fraser and for Vancouver Coastal," Abbott said. "But that's something we are in relatively early discussion on."



RHCS directors are preparing to participate in a possible public education campaign once a plan is suggested. We intend to make public presentations on different aspects of the site such as its history, its tree collection, and our community vision for its future. We need to emphasize that these recent developments underline why the entire site must stay in the public domain, available to serve the needs of the mentally ill. Policies change and what seems a good idea today may be proclaimed a mistake tomorrow. Once the land is in private hands, it is unrecoverable.



**RHCS
Executive**

PRESIDENT
Donna Crosby
donna@rhcs.org

VICE-PRESIDENT
Norma Gillespie
norma@rhcs.org

SECRETARY
Sue Habeger
sue@rhcs.org

acting TREASURER
Liz Rowley
liz@rhcs.org

TREE WALK DIRECTOR
Mary Brown
mary@rhcs.org

WEBSITE
Teri Madaisky
teri@rhcs.org

DIRECTORS at LARGE
Val Adolph, Patricia Matyas,
Ron Javorsky, Liz Rowley

LEAVES newsletter**EDITOR**

Teri Madaisky

PROOFREADERS

Donna, Norma, Mary, Sue

PHOTOS

Sue Habeger

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue, Mary, Donna

DISTRIBUTION

Sue

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Editorial email:
newsletter@rhcs.org

RHCS

Riverview Horticultural
Centre Society


P.O. Box 64616,
1942 Como Lake Ave.
Coquitlam, BC
V3J 7V7

Phone: 604-290-9910

Email: trees@rhcs.org

**We're on the Web!
visit us:**

www.rhcs.org

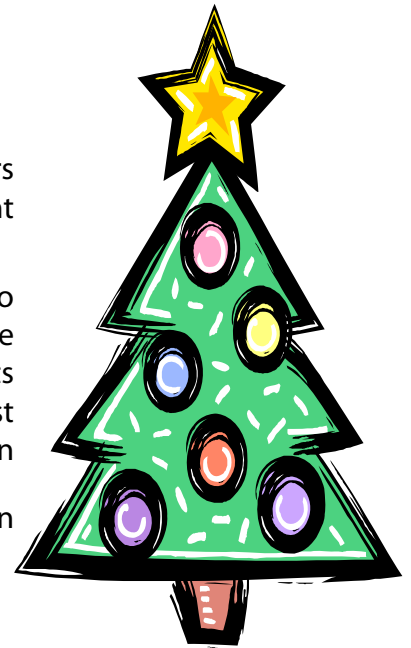
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THANK YOU From the Walk Director

We would like to thank particularly Treefest 2006 donors Westminster Credit Union, TD Friends of the Environment and the City of Coquitlam.

Thanks also to all the volunteer arborists and hosts who led the many walks, parking/information helpers, the Blackberry Tea hosts, environmental agencies, artists and the people who assisted in planning for Treefest 2006. We were so happy to have some new leaders join us on the tree tours this year.

Mary Brown



**2007 Tree Walk Schedule
Now available online to print out**

Attention Members

Do any of our RHCS members know of any possible donors who might help us with funding (or in kind donations) for future events? Some companies will match dollars, or are interested in getting a stake in the community. We would be very happy to hear from anyone with ideas. Call Mary at 604-939-7769.

Burke Mountain Naturalists meeting

Presentation on "The Riverview Lands Tree Collection Vision"

Guest speaker will be Ian Birtwell from the BC Ministry of Labour and Citizen Services (ARES)
January 9/07 - 7:30 PM at Como Lake United Church, 535 Marmont Street in Coquitlam
open to the public

RHCS members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting

In Memory of Our Friend Janet

In September the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society lost a very special member.

Janet Wintermans was a past Director with RHCS. She was also one of the original members of Burke Mountain Naturalists.

Janet represented us at tree walks and events when we needed her. Her support was in her presence and she always knew what to say in encouraging our efforts.



Janet your Support & Smile will be Missed!



The Riverview
Horticultural Centre Society

Presents

Public Tree Tours 2007

at Riverview Hospital

2601 Lougheed Highway, Coquitlam
Meet for walks at Henry Esson Young (HEY) Building
(See directions below)

*Burke Mountain Naturalists lead tours of the Wildlife Area at the high point of the Lands
These walks (indicated in italics) also start from the HEY Building*

March 18th	Sunday	1 pm	First walk of the 2007 season
April 15th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
<i>April 22nd</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>1 pm</i>	<i>BMN Finnie's/Backyard walk</i>
April 29th	Sunday	1 pm	Magnolia time (maybe)
May 13th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
May 27th	Sunday	1 pm	Children's walk
June 17th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
<i>June 24th</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>1 pm</i>	<i>BMN Backyard walk</i>
July 5th	Thursday	7:30 pm	Linden walk
July 15th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
July 29th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
August 19th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
<i>August 26th</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>1 pm</i>	<i>BMN Backyard walk</i>
Treefest 2007 September 23rd	Sunday	11am - 4pm	TREEFEST 2007 Guided Walks leave on the hour
October 14th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour

For further information, phone our answering service at **604-290-9910**,
or check our website at www.rhcs.org

Directions: To reach HEY building take Holly Drive through the hospital grounds, then go uphill on Oak Crescent, and the HEY is on your right on Kalmia Drive. Find parking, and meet at the front door. Buses do go through the grounds, ask to be let off above Crease Clinic.

Information: Walks are usually led by a volunteer arborist, and last about two hours, depending on weather and walkers' preference. Dress for the weather, and wear comfy shoes or boots. We go rain or shine. Children to adults welcome. Dogs on 'leash' are also welcome.

Walks are free but you can join the society, or make a tax-deductible donation if you wish.

Special tours for groups can be arranged by contacting trees@rhcs.org, Mary at 604-939-7769 or Norma at 604-942-7378, or leave a message at 604-290-9910.

The public is welcome to visit the arboretum anytime.

Pick up a self-guided tour at our kiosk on Pine Terrace (west of Crease Clinic - see the sitemap)