

## LEAVES Newsletter



### PETITIONS TO LEGISLATURE

Mary Brown

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### online newsletters

Save a tree - View our newsletters online!

4 newsletters a year are published online.

The March & September editions are also available in print to members by request.

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](mailto: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.

On Monday November 26th members of RHCS and BMN set off for Victoria, to witness Coquitlam/Maillardville MLA Diane Thorne and Port Coquitlam MLA Mike Farnworth, **present "almost 11,000" petitions to the Legislature.**

This is the last week of the fall session, and it was deemed necessary to get the petition tabled, before any public debate sessions start to happen in the spring.

Diane told us that they will continue to accept signed petitions until April, so please keep encouraging your friends and neighbours, and strangers you "chat up" while on your rounds.

Also do go online, and sign the petition, you can make your own comments. There are already some very interesting remarks. See page 3.



Photo by Carole Edwards



Photo by Linda Asgeirsson


Look out for a schedule of public meetings to discuss the proposal to build up to 10,000 housing units on the Riverview Lands. We have been told that planning for these will start in the new year, but you never know with the vagaries of political life if the timetable could be sped up. Do try to attend a meeting (or 2), and be prepared to let "them" know how you feel about this.

**Still time to sign both petitions - Paper & Online!!**


### RHCS ADS IN TRICITY NEWS

Have you seen our ad campaign in the Tricity Newspapers? RHCS ran a weekly ad for the past 9 weeks. We will continue after the holidays are over. We will update it as the need arises.

**SAY YES!**  
To preserving the Riverview Lands legacy for future generations.




**SAY NO!** To Market Housing




**STAND UP** and be seen...  
Speak up and be heard.  
Sign the online petition at [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org)  
Premier Campbell, Room 156, West Annex  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8W 9E1  
premier@gov.bc.ca

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society, RHCS,  
"Speaking for the trees since 1992"  
For free guided tours or presentations  
call **604-942-7378** or **604-290-9910**

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Visit the **NEW [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org)** for the latest news on public meetings, or check in the newspapers.

**2008 Tree Walk Schedule**  
Now available online to print out





## ONLINE PETITION COMMENTS

Visit the online petition to add your comments!

"Like Stanley Park, Riverview is a sanctuary in an otherwise over-crowded city - what's more important than old growth and beauty? more homes?? Riverview is vibrant, condos are not" -NS Coquitlam

"Enough with the housing---where will the next generations go to experience the tranquility and beauty of nature! Riverview grounds must be preserved, for it's history, it's beauty and for our future generation!!!" -KR Quesnel

"I am very concerned about the fate of the mature tree collection on the Riverview grounds. It is a valuable botanical collection that is not duplicated anywhere else in the province, and should be preserved." -LR Qualicum Beach

"I think the decision to close beds relocate clients in community facilities/programs has been a failure. I think our government should put a stop to redeveloping the Riverview Property rather than just looking at what profits will be earned by the sale of the land" - JB Burnaby

"As well as being an area of 'green' in the city, the area has one of the best collections of mature trees on the West Coast. Destroyng any of this collection would be the equivelant of environmental vandalism" -GA Saltspring Island

"The Riverview Lands are our green corridor from the mountains to the Fraser River" -DW Coquitlam

"The ecological and historical value of the land can not be duplicated. Riverview needs to be reinstated as a first class health facility, not condos." -FM Delta

"Do the right thing, preserve the area for future generations. Is there anything like it in the entire province?" -BB Abbotsford

"The park and collection of buildings (and their historic use) are too valuable to the entire region to be sacrificed for a short-term housing project." -MK Australia

"The Riverview Lands are an island of peace and grace - a botanical treasure. They should be preseved just like Stanley Park or Van Deusen Gardens and used to help those who need the quiet shelter they offer." -KP Coquitlam

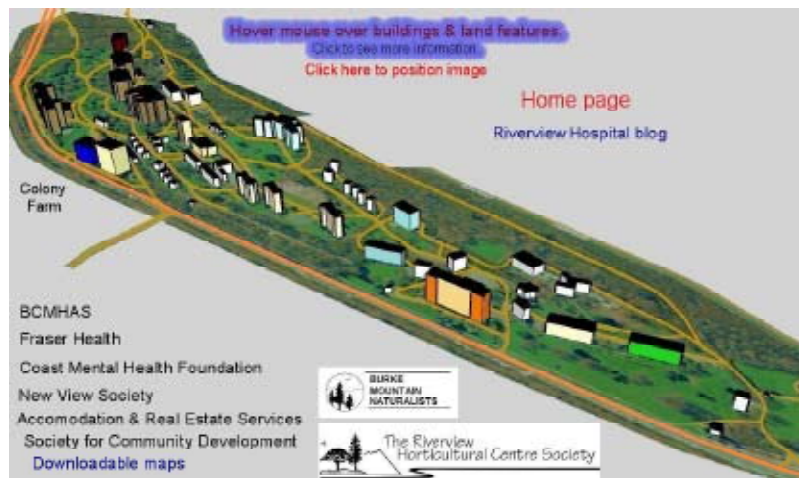
"The Riverview task force got it right, and spoke for all of us. Please follow thier advice. The alternative would be devastating." -KL Port Coquitlam

"Please save this magnificent historical Arbortetum. This unique collection of trees has been nurtured for a century. And how, in the name of humanity, can you even consider closing yet another mental health care facility and adding to the unhoused population on the streets? There are things more important than the almighty dollar. like saving the planet and its beauty, preserving our heritage and caring for those less fortunate than we are!" -MB Maple Ridge

## INTERACTIVE MAP of RIVERVIEW ONLINE

<http://niftyall.googlepages.com/rvmapp>

NOW online is a very informative interactive map created by member Niall Williams. Using Google pages Niall has added history, photos and more to a clickable map. Ever wanted to know more information about a building or area on the Riverview Lands? Come try the the map. You will need several visits to see it all.



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

**www.rhcs.org**

Please Recycle if you print

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With our successful Treefest well behind us one would think that things would slow down but the RHCS executive has been very busy with meetings, getting petitions signed, putting a paid ad together for the local papers, reviewing reports, manning displays, re-designing our website, and more meetings. The Stewardship Committee has started on a process which will assess and document the Natural Areas of the Riverview site.

On Nov. 28 I attended a meeting of the BC Schizophrenia Society, North Shore Branch, at Lions Gate Hospital in North Van. Several people in this group are also members of the Riverview Preservation Society. MLA Diane Thorne and Mayor Maxine Wilson were guest speakers. Many at this meeting are very much in favour of re-establishing institutional-type treatment programs at Riverview as they feel that is the only environment that will help their family members. I'm sure you have heard all kinds of talk about establishing a Homeless Shelter at Riverview but we don't know anything more about that than what we read in the papers.

RHCS has a volunteer opportunity for a member to act as Treasurer on our Board. If you or anyone in your family is able to help our Society in this way or have questions about the position, please contact Donna at 604-939-4064.

We have been told by ARES at a Stewardship Committee meeting that the public meetings re the future of the Riverview Lands may start in January. If this happens, we will certainly get the information out to our members. Meanwhile keep those petitions coming.

**On behalf of RHCS we wish you a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for all good things in the New Year** (including a positive outcome for the future of the Riverview Lands).

*Donna Crosby*

## Seasons Greetings from RHCS



**Visit [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org) to view our NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE;**

Also NEW is our membership & donation page where you can now pay online with a credit card through a secure paypal transaction.

- **Pay Memberships online!** Join now or renew your membership in 2008.
- **Make Donations online!** If you want to support our work to preserve the lands we welcome donations of any amount.



Presents

# Public Tree Tours 2008

## 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 shaded area\*) also start from the HEY Building*

<b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	First walk of the 2008 season
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	Magnolia time
<b>April 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Finnie's/Backyard walk *
<b>May 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour - Mother's day
<b>May 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	Children's walk
<b>June 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour- Father's day
<b>June 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk *
<b>June 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Thursday	7:30 pm	Linden walk
<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
<b>August 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
<b>August 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk *
<b>September 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Sunday	11am - 4pm	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Annual - TREEFEST 2008</b> Guided Walks leave on the hour
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup></b>	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](http://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 are always welcome. Dogs must be on 'leash'.

**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](mailto:trees@rhcs.org), Mary at 604-939-7769 or Norma at 604-942-7378, or leave a message at 604-290-9910.

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

The public is welcome to visit the arboretum anytime. NOTICE: The Riverview Tree Collection is located on the grounds of Riverview Hospital, a treatment facility for people with mental health challenges that is in active operation. Please respect the privacy of the Patients, this is their home. For PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY visit [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org)