



LEAVES Newsletter



A CALL TO ACTION

Sue Haberger

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The BC Government's proposal to build over 7000 market housing units at Riverview threatens its very existence. Even if these units were all contained in high rise buildings, it would require at least 35 towers with all the associated parking, and infrastructure. The property would be sold to private developers and the heritage tree collection, landscapes, and buildings would be destroyed. An important ecological, horticultural, and historical treasure will be lost forever. We can't allow this to happen.

The City of Coquitlam envisions a very different future for Riverview. In the 2005 Task Force Report, the Guiding Principles for future land use state:

- that the needs of the mentally ill are paramount;
- that the lands must remain in public ownership and accessible to all;
- that the trees, the heritage buildings, and the green spaces must be protected;
- and that absolutely no market housing be built.

The report does not preclude development or revenue generation at Riverview but states that any additional land uses must adhere to the guiding principles and be in harmony with the needs of the mentally ill.

A strong message must be sent to Housing Minister Rich Coleman and Premier Campbell to withdraw their misguided proposal immediately and work with the City of Coquitlam and the citizens of BC on a creative plan for an appropriate future for Riverview.

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We are asking our members to take action. Here is what you can do:

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RIVERVIEW IN THE NEWS

Teri Madaisky

As many of you are aware the Riverview Lands have been in the news a lot this summer after an announcement by the government. (see page 4 & above)

But for those who were enjoying your summer you may have missed some articles and letters etc. We have posted links to many news articles and letters on our blog, come have a look.

Visit www.rhcs.org for a link to our blog where we will try to keep any current news.

HELP SAVE RIVERVIEW!!!

Sign the Online Petition:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/rview/petition.html>

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

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.



Treefest 2007

Mary Brown

Treefest 2007 is coming closer. We have tried to enhance the activities that celebrate the Trees, such as our wonderful arborist-led walks among the mature open-grown trees at Riverview. We have listed the leader, and the approximate length of walk below, so that visitors have a chance to choose. We will continue to plan for a longer walk and a shorter walk for most hours. Walks in the native area will be available for those who wish, from Finnie's Garden, ask for Don Gillespie. There will be a special Walk for children, although they can also accompany parents on regular walks.

Heritage Walk

There will be a Heritage walk with Don Luxton, architect and member of the Vancouver Heritage Society who knows the grounds well. It will include walking to the main heritage buildings, but NOT going inside. We have been unable to get permission from ARES to enter the vacant buildings as when not in hospital use the buildings are de-commissioned, and pose safety and liability risks. There will be a presentation before the walk, showing some of the old pictures of the Riverview Hospital and Lands.

Plant Sale

We will be having another tree and plant sale, with more accent on trees this year, so start dreaming about where you could plant a nice new tree, and do your bit for the environment.

Volunteers

We will be seeking out volunteers through various groups, and they will be identified with green scarves, and ready to help you. If you would like to get involved in helping us at Treefest, or in any other way please contact trees@rhcs.org or Mary at 604-939-7769. There are always jobs involved in celebrating this event.

Thank You

We are grateful to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Westminster Savings Credit Union for their financial support for Treefest, again, and to staff of Riverview Hospital, and the remaining residents for their support. The City of Coquitlam will be holding their "beautification" awards again this year, and we thank City Council and staff for their support and encouragement of Treefest.

We hope for good weather. We are taking advantage of 5 Sundays in September this year to hold our festival the week after the Terry Fox Run, as we know that some of our volunteers, and maybe, potential visitors, like to attend that too.

Featured Speakers & Entertainment

This year our featured speaker will be Cyril Hume. Also long time member and photographer Ken Baker is offering a Bonsai display and will talk about the art of Bonsai, and big tree hunter Ralf Kelman will talk and show pictures of some of his finds.

We have decided to invite roving musicians, rather than the formal set-up we have used recently, as we found that people were otherwise engaged and missed hearing our wonderful local talent.

We have invited various environmental groups, artists and food providers, and we thank them for their support. Some staff people from ARES (was BCBC) are involved with the planning committee, and will be available to talk about the work of the Natural Areas Stewardship group, of which some RHCS and BMN members have been part.

2007 Treefest Schedule of Walk Tours

Time	Leader	Tour Event
11-12.30pm	Doug Justice	Co- leader
11-12.30pm	John Gillespie	Co-leader
12-1.30pm	Kathy Reinheimer	Longer walk
12 -1pm	Paul Buikema	Shorter walk
12.30-1.15pm	Norma	Children's walk @ Serenity Gdn
12.30-1.30	Don Luxton	Heritage walk
1.00-2 pm	Barry Elliott	Shorter walk
1-2.30 pm	Bill Nichol	Longer walk
2-3.30 pm	John Gillespie	Longer walk
2- 3 pm	Paul Buikema	Shorter walk
3-4.30 pm	Michael Nihls	Last walk

Sunday September 23rd, 2007



Continued from Page 1

We are asking our members to take action. Here is what you can do:

- 1 **Sign the Petitions** - on-line at: www.petitiononline.com/rview AND the paper petition at Treefest or at Diane Thorne's constituency office.
The on-line petition is a chance to comment, but is not part of the formal petition, so sign both.
- 2 **Get others to sign the petitions.** Send the link to your contacts or call Diane Thorne at 604 933-2001 to get copies of the paper petition.
- 3 **Express your opinion!**
Respond to articles about Riverview in the newspapers or interviews on radio or TV with letters, e-mails and phone calls.

Write to Premier Gordon Campbell (premier@gov.bc.ca) and Housing Minister Rich Coleman (rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Facebook members can join the group: "Protect the Riverview Lands" and post to its Discussion Board or Wall.
- 4 **Visit the lands and bring others** to see them. Treefest is September 23 but you are welcome to explore the lands at any time. Come to Finnie's Garden Friday and Sunday at 10 am and help out the volunteer gardeners. Call RHCS at **604 290 9910** for details.
- 5 **Keep your RHCS membership up and encourage others to join.**
Visit the website www.rhcs.org to stay informed. Check out the new links posted there.

RHCS directors intend to use paid advertising to keep the Riverview issue in the public eye. Special donations for this project are welcome



Cyril Hume

Donna Crosby

Our guest speaker at Treefest 2007 is Cyril Hume



Mr. Hume is a renowned garden historian. He is well known for his passionate commitment to the survival of old gardens. He worked with The Land Conservancy of BC during the Abkhazi Garden restoration and also worked on the recovery and restoration of the garden at Point Ellice House.

Mr. Hume has been gardening since the age of 5 being somewhat influenced by grandparents who were

pioneers in fruit orchards in the Kelowna area, who were also gardeners. Part of his earlier education included living in residence for a short time at Riverview while studying Art Therapy.

In addition to restoring gardens, Mr. Hume is a freelance garden consultant, designer, writer, researcher, lecturer, and is an active advocate for the proper preservation of historical gardens.

Visit www.rhcs.org or check in the newspapers, particularly the Tri-City ones for the schedule of Treefest events, and volunteer opportunities, in September.

Mark Treefest Sunday September 23 11am-4 pm on your calendar now.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 27, 2007 was the day that long-time RHCS members have dreaded for many years. That was the day that the front page of The Vancouver Sun announced Housing Minister Coleman's plans for 7000 housing units to be built on The Riverview Lands. The timing of this announcement on a Friday in the middle of the summer could not have been worse. We would have expected a more consultative approach from the Provincial Government towards our own group which has been working for 15 years to retain the site for mental health and public uses. Also, the City of Coquitlam deserved the courtesy of some kind of notification that this announcement was being made.

Nonetheless, we are gratified with the reaction from our own members, but also from many other supporters that the Riverview Hospital site should be retained for the use of the mentally ill and the general public. *Future uses of the Riverview Hospital site should never benefit developers.*

We hope that you all have the opportunity to sign the petition that MLAs Diane Thorne and Mike Farnworth have initiated. There is an on-line petition as well as a paper version available. Please sign the petition yourself and pass it on to friends and family. When the government begins the public process they have said will take place we will be contacting our members to support us by attending these public meetings.

In spite of the terrible news out of Victoria the plans and preparations for Treefest 2007 are going on as usual and we are hoping for our biggest and best Treefest ever. Treefest gives us an opportunity to make many more people aware of how unique and special Riverview is and what the potential of this beautiful site could be. I look forward to seeing many of you at Treefest.

Donna Crosby

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SAVE RIVERVIEW WE NEED YOUR HELP

Sign the paper petition & the online petition;

<http://www.petitiononline.com/rview/petition.htm>

The on-line petition is a chance to comment, but is not part of the formal petition, so sign both.

see more on page 1 & 3

Remaining Walks Scheduled for 2007:

2007 Tree Walk Schedule

September 23rd	Sunday	11-4pm	TREEFEST 2007
October 14th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour

All walks start at the HEY building at 1 pm unless stated otherwise.