



Logo design and drawings courtesy of Brenda Gillespie and Kiyoshi Takahashi

## LEAVES Newsletter



### ACTION UPDATE for MARCH 2008

Sue Haberber

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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.

Development at Riverview is front page news once again. The on-going problem of the lack of treatment for the growing number of homeless people suffering from both addiction and mental illness was highlighted in a recent Vancouver police report. Politicians and mental health providers are once again looking at Riverview as a place to house and treat the worst affected. In addition, the question of which route the Evergreen Line should take through Coquitlam has been re-opened and the south-west option runs right alongside the Riverview Lands. Both the treatment facility and the rapid transit line are big budget items and the provincial government seems determined to sell a large part of the Riverview Lands to private developers in order to raise money.

In our opinion, this is like selling the family farm to buy a new car. It is not possible to build the high rise housing, services and collector roads shown on the government's plan for Riverview without destroying the unique landscape we have fought so hard to protect. It is not workable to put a treatment facility for severely mentally ill and addicted people in the middle of upscale market housing. It is not realistic to expect that Riverview's tree collection and heritage can be preserved under such a plan. And it is not acceptable for the provincial government to continue to ignore Coquitlam's vision for the future of Riverview.

We are fortunate to have a city council that understands the issue and is willing to respond every time it is raised. Mayor Maxine Wilson and Councillor Mae Reid spoke for all of us when they stated in the media that Coquitlam welcomes enhanced services and housing for the mentally ill at Riverview but is absolutely opposed to putting the land into private hands for market housing. We also appreciate the strong support of local

MLA's Diane Thorne and Mike Farnworth who have presented a petition and are working on a private member's bill to support our vision. We acknowledge the hard work of the Burke Mountain Naturalists and other community groups who participate actively in the effort to spread the word. And most importantly, we thank our members for their on-going work to get the message through to the decision makers. Keep writing, keep talking, stay informed, and stay involved.

### AGM Announcement!

**EVERYONE is WELCOME**

Please come join us for Our

Annual General Meeting

Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

at 7:30 pm

Henry Esson Young Building

Riverview Hospital

call for more info: 604-290-9910



If you want to know more about what is happening with the Society, and at Riverview this is a chance to hear the latest news we have.

## HERITAGE DESIGNATION for THE RIVERVIEW LANDS

Niall Williams

In the fall of 2007, Coquitlam council directed staff to investigate the possibilities of recognizing the Riverview site as a significant heritage resource that should be placed on the Community Heritage Register.

The City hired Donald Luxton & associates, to prepare a Statement of Significance,(SoS) report stating why it should be preserved, and including an updated chronology of the site. The City held two in-camera meetings, in December and January during which representatives from RHCS and other community groups provided input into the SoS report. On January 21, 2007, the report was presented to council who unanimously voted to place that the entire site, including the land features and buildings on the Community Heritage Register. Council also directed staff to forward copies of the SoS report to the Provincial Heritage branch for possible placement on the B.C. Register of Historic Places, and also

to the Federal government for possible placement on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, with a possible additional designation, as one of Canada's National Historic Sites.



Photo by Niall Williams

Snowdrops

At this writing nothing has been forthcoming from the Province, who will have to agree to the proposed heritage designations, before they would have any effect. If the Province decides to allow heritage status for the site, monies would then become available from the governments involved to potentially restore, or at least stabilize the buildings' continuing deterioration, and hopefully to maintain the landscaped setting, that adds so much to the site.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In this time of great activity on behalf of Saving the Riverview Lands, members of our Board are beginning to feel the demands on us. Perhaps it is time for other members to step up to the plate. Last year we counted 2236 hours (a conservative estimate) that our active Board members worked on behalf of RHCS.

We could use some help on the Board, a term as a Director at Large could introduce you to the idea of what position you might like to take. For those not inclined to attend regular meetings there are possibilities to help in other ways. We would be glad to have someone who would coordinate volunteers, in particular at Treefest.

Meetings are held on most first Thursdays in the month, at 7:15 pm HEY building. Contact President Donna at 604-939-4064 if you would like to come.

For a shorter term the Treefest Planning Committee would also welcome people with new ideas to help plan and assist at the event. We meet on a weekday mornings approx. once a month. Contact Donna or Mary at 604-939-7769.

## Membership Renewal Due April 1st, 2007

### A CHANGE of TREASURER

The Society cannot thank **Liz** enough for all the years (well over 12yrs) that she filled the position of Treasurer. She not only looked after our finances but looked after membership and sent receipts and friendly notes to so many of our members. Liz has been ready to step down (and who wouldn't be after all this time) and was relieved when Murray Clare stepped up to the plate. It was in 2006 that Liz received the Governor Generals Caring Canadian Award and made all of us in the RHSC so proud.

**Murray** has an understanding of our mission and a professional understanding of the task of treasurer. It was not that many years ago when Murray was manager of the branch of the Dogwood Credit Union right here on the Riverview Hospital grounds. We are fortunate that Murray has accepted this responsibility at this critical time.



## DECIDUOUS CONIFERS

Mary Brown

Deciduous Conifers were a hot topic on a recent walk with Horticultural Technician students from Douglas College, so I thought I would write about *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*- Dawn Redwood for this newsletter. We have two specimens at Riverview, the best known is #79 by the intersection of Holly Drive, with the roads from Mariner Way, and Pennington Hall. The other, # 433 is hidden behind *Quercus robur*- English Oak, and *Pinus sylvestris*, on the north side of the front entrance to West Lawn, and has not had space to develop to its potential.

Dawn Redwood - Summer



Photo by Niall Williams

*Metasequoia* was only known as fossils, until some were found living in Sechuan province in China in 1941. A seed source from an isolated valley in Hubei was the foundation of the many trees that have been planted since 1948. It is not known how tall they will grow, but some have been measured at 35 m. in parts of N. America, and are still young. Fossils have been found in many areas of the northern hemisphere, including *M. occidentalis* at Princeton B.C. They are from the Miocene Epoch, which occurred 23-5 million years ago.

*M. glyptostoboides* is pyramidal in shape, becoming more oval as it matures. The branches are twisted upwards.

The leaves are needle-like, and come in soft, flat sprays with opposite shoots along the stem. They are a brilliant soft green when they emerge in April, turn to a softer green, and become dark amber before they drop in October. The cone is compact, oval in shape, 2.5-3 cm long. The Bark is reddish brown, and fibrous. Buttresses form at a fairly young age.

There are also two varieties known, 'Gold Rush' with soft yellow foliage, and 'Nitschke's Cream' a lighter yellow. I have seen these at the Hillier Arboretum in Hampshire, but they are quite rare.

The other Deciduous Conifers are *Larix*-Larch, *Taxodium distichum*-Swamp Cypress, and to my surprise *Ginkgo biloba*. They all share in looking quite bare during the winter months, then opening very attractive green leaves in the spring, which turn colour and drop in Fall, and bearing

Dawn Redwood - Winter



Photo by Niall Williams

cones, which may stay on the branches through the winter months.

**Our first walk is on Sunday March 16th starting as usual at 1 pm, at HEY. Rain or shine, bring the family, dog on leash, friends or come on your own. All are welcome**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****March 2008**

Our first scheduled tree tour for 2008 will be held on March 16. We are also happy to do tours for groups so if you know of an organization which may be interested in a tour around Riverview let us know.

As I have been away for most of the month of February I'll leave it to others to comment on recent announcements, issues, etc. Please read Sue Haberber's report elsewhere in this newsletter re the present status of the Riverview Lands.

It would appear that with the announcement by Health Minister Abbott that the former Willingdon Detention Centre in Burnaby will be used for the treatment of some of the homeless mentally ill people from Vancouver there will be no immediate use of any of the Riverview buildings. However, it seems that Minister Abbott has not closed the door on using some facilities at Riverview in the next year or so. We still have no knowledge of when the public process re the future uses of the site will start. It is very frustrating for everything to be so much up in the air.

Treefest planning has already begun and we would welcome any RHCS members who would be interested in serving on this committee. Treefest will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008 from 11:00 to 4:00. See Mary's article on volunteers for more info.

A reminder that the petition initiated by Diane Thorne and Mike Farnworth is ongoing so please continue to collect signatures.

Despite the doom and gloom of recent announcements and the very real possibility of the SkyTrain route being changed to the south-east route past the Riverview Lands, we are still ever hopeful of a positive outcome for the future of this wonderful site.

We look forward to meeting new RHCS members and visiting with long-time members at the tree tours.

If you have any questions or concerns please phone Donna at 604-939-4064.

*Donna Crosby*

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Niall Williams

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

**www.rhcs.org**

**2008 Tree Walk Schedule**

March 16th	Sunday	1 pm	1st walk of the 2007 season
April 20th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
April 27th	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk
May 11th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
May 25th	Sunday	1 pm	Children's walk
June 15th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
June 22nd	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk
June 26th	Thursday	7:30 pm	Linden walk
July 20th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
August 17th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
August 24th	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk
September 21st	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11-4pm</b>	<b>TREEFEST 2008</b>
October 5th	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour

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





**April 1st, 2008  
RENEW NOW!!**

The RHCS invites you to join us in supporting our efforts to keep the site of British Columbia's first botanical garden, the Riverview Hospital Lands intact. Your Membership dues support many activities by the Society including public awareness, newsletters, website, presentations, displays, etc.

**'New' PAY or DONATE ONLINE!**  
**You can now use a credit card to renew your membership online.**

Visit our website; click on 'Memberships & Donations' or go directly to <http://rhcs.org/membership.html>  
 In this time of uncertainty we really need your continued support more than ever before.

*We Value your Support & Appreciate all the help you can give.*

Newsletters ONLINE four times a year to keep you up to date with RHCS and the Riverview Lands.  
 Please include your email address so we can let you know when 'new' newsletters are available on-line for viewing.

**Walking tours in 2008:**

March 16, April 20, May 11, June 15, July 20, August 17 & October 5 at 1 pm  
 Also Children's walk on May 25 at 1pm, Linden Walk Thursday June 26 at 7:30 pm

BMN – Backyard walks also on Sundays at 1pm: April 27, June 22 & August 24

**Treefest 2008 takes place on September 21, 11am-4pm.** Arborist-led walks, visit [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org) for more details.

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**MEMBERSHIP - FORM**

The RHCS invites you to join us in supporting our efforts to keep the site of BC's first botanical garden, the Riverview Hospital Lands, intact.

Membership Classification: NEW  or RENEWAL  Yearly membership is due on April 1st

Student: \$5  Senior: \$5  Adult: \$10  Family: \$15  Corporate: \$25

You are invited to make a donation  
 to support the Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

– Tax Receipts issued for donations  
 – RHCS is a registered charitable organization

(Please make cheques payable to;  
 Riverview Horticultural Centre Society)

**Membership Application:**

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for 'Newsletters' & notices: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (personal information will not be shared with other organizations)

Please Mail to: The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society  
 P.O. Box 64616, 1942 Como Lake Avenue Coquitlam, BC, V3J 7V7