



## LEAVES Newsletter



### The Importance of being Earnest!

How do big environmental organizations claim campaign successes in preserving what would seem impossible on the scale they pursue. The bottom line is that they never give up, they keep their focus precisely on their original purpose without making compromises until the initial safety net of preservation has been established. In the past several months your executive has been actively and passionately encouraging you to board the activist bandwagon. In putting pen to paper writing to your premier asking her on behalf of her government to endorse the city of Coquitlam's application for National Historic Site Designation for the Riverview hospital lands site. We have also sent out over 1300 brochures with letters to the British Columbia Historical Federation's entire member list for support. This mail out reached province wide with the potential to activate thousands of individuals concerned about historical preservation from within the memberships of these 1300 organizations.

This networking initiative is but the tip of the iceberg potential we can tap into for activation of all of the support systems we have established over the past 19 years. To do this we need your help. Your support over the years is appreciated, we draw on your support for our strength and our motivation. Your support tells us that you are the type of person who really values the historical legacy Riverview holds, from a people perspective, an architectural perspective, and a botanical and natural perspective.

Through Coquitlam's application to the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, HSMBC, for National Historic Site Designation for the Riverview Site, we have, for the first time since our conception as a society been presented with a plausible preservation candidate. A candidate with the potential to securely establish the safety net of preservation we all want for his entire site. Now more than ever we need to focus our collective energy and brain power into keeping our campaign active and growing in support. To do that new avenues of support need to be found and activated.

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### online newsletters

Save a tree; View our newsletters online!

4 newsletters a year are published **online**.

The Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter newsletters will be posted on our website in pdf format. A direct link will be sent in an email.

Newsletters editions are also available in print to members by request.

[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.



Pinus Albicaulis Cones



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**con't from page 1 - The Importance of being Earnest!**



Photo by John Davidson

Pseudotsuga Cones

This is where “The Importance of Being Earnest” comes in. Each one of you can help. Please, if you are a member of another environmental, historical or botanical organization or society and are willing to open that door to RHCS, we need to contact that organization. Our web site is listed on the newsletter as is our phone number and mailing address. We will require the name of the organization, the name of a contact person with a telephone number or email address or both. If you are not comfortable approaching them yourself one of your executive members will initiate contact from the information you provide. We will explain our campaign needs and ask for the support of their organization and its member base. We will also ask them to ask their membership to provide us with any organizations they may belong to that we may contact to network with as well, etc. etc. etc. This is the way in which our campaign will eventually succeed.

**The first step is you!** We need you to share your contacts with us so we can activate the networking potential within the contacts you share. As you can imagine the potential of this networking concept is far reaching and once we get it started the support will be like a tidal wave. The provincial government will get swept up in it with no other way out other than to support the application put forward by the city of Coquitlam. Please respond to this call for help, the future of these lands is literally in your hands right now. All the years of support from you have come down to this moment in time, it is time to effect a change, we have the power to do that together. We have the power, which is your knowledge, and we have the means, which is the networking of like minded supporters. All that is left to do is join the lines of communication. That we can do together! Thank you.

Ken Baker - Vice President RHCS

**18th Annual TREEFEST 2011**  
**September 17th**  
**Saturday 11 am- 4 pm**

Mark your Calendars:  
Treefest is on a SATURDAY this year for the first time!



**Treefest**

Treefest’s theme will be “the Healing Power of Trees”.

Treefest will have the traditional walks, with special trees identified and most walks visiting some of them. The walks go out each hour on the hour, and will last for between 1 and 1 1/2 hours each.

Activities will also include community displays, live entertainment, Blackberry Tea, children’s activities, workshops by GardenWorks, tree tours, and exhibits from the local arts community. Food and beverage services will be provided on site.

As the time approaches for all patients to be moved from the site it is all the more important that people recognise the legacy of the combination of buildings and landscaping, in particular the wonderful collection of trees, (and of course the Green Link for wildlife) and press for preservation for public use.

Check on [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org) for final details nearer the event.

SATURDAY, September 17th, 11am-4 pm  
(mark your calendars NOW)





## The John Davidson Website

by Sue Habeger

Our March newsletter featured an article by Val Adolph about John Davidson, who established the arboretum and botanical garden at Riverview. It included a captivating colour photo of "Botany John" in his garden in Scotland. This photo is one of many created and painted by Professor Davidson himself and now available to the public on-line.

Professor Davidson was a true renaissance man with wide ranging talents and interests. Way ahead of his time in his drive to preserve the natural environment, he explored the BC wilderness and collected specimens for identification. He founded the BC Natural History Society (today called "Nature BC") and led excursions to Garibaldi and the Fraser Canyon. Mount Davidson near the Cheakamus Glacier is named in his honour.

John Davidson was also an avid photographer. Of course in the early 20th century, this meant capturing images on glass lantern slides and hand painting them when colour was desired! He created slides of botanical specimens to use in his teaching; he took photos of the scenery and participants on his hiking excursions; and he took photos of life in Vancouver and family vacations. He built lovely wooden boxes to organize and store his photo collection.

These wonderful slides might be lost forever without the dedication of former RHCS treasurer, Liz Rowley. In a strange twist of fate, Liz lived many years next door to John Davidson and his wife, Edna in Vancouver. When they passed away, Liz became responsible for the estate, which included this unique collection of glass slides. Realizing the importance of the collection, she was determined to find them a good home. Eventually, she contacted Vernon (Bert) Brink at the UBC Botanical Garden who secured funding to have the photos digitized and made available to the public. Daniel Mosquin, together with researcher, David Brownstein and web developer, Scott McMillan led a talented and enthusiastic project team.

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Photo by John Davidson

John Davidson on Skwoach Mountain



Photo by John Davidson

Flower Zone Black Tusk



Photo by John Davidson

Anemone occidentalis



Photo by John Davidson

Rhododendron



Photo by John Davidson

JD and AE\_ at Tent



Photo by John Davidson

Rest and Lunch



Photo by John Davidson

Populus tremuloides



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We're on the Web!  
visit us:

www.rhcs.org

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Pass on to a friend to read



**con't from page 3 - The John Davidson Website**

The result is a captivating website: [www.botanyjohn.org](http://www.botanyjohn.org) where these marvelous images are publicly available, together with anecdotes and information about John Davidson and his work. You can even look at his handwritten personal notebooks and read the text of his speeches and articles. It is beautifully displayed and well worth exploring and bookmarking for many return visits.

Sue Haberger,  
RHCS Director and Liz Rowley's daughter



Photo by John Davidson

Rhododendron californicum



Photo by John Davidson

Nursery at Botanical Garden

**Membership Renewal Due 2011**

**Another Wish List from Friends of Finnie's Garden**

Norma Gillespie

It's been a few years since Don has asked our members for any tools that they are no longer wanting and would like to pass them on. There is a need again so once more if you can help, Finnie's would appreciate your thoughtfulness.

On the top of the list is a wheelbarrow, pruning or bow saw and of course hand tools are always appreciated.

Volunteer gardeners are always welcome and we meet on Thursday and Sunday mornings between 10 and noon.



Photo by John Davidson

Aquilegia

**2011 Tree Walk Schedule**



August 14	Sunday 1 pm	Public Tree Tour
August 21	Sunday 1 pm	BMN Natural Heritage walk*
Sept. 17	Saturday 11-4	TREEFEST 2011-18th Annual
October 2	Sunday 1 pm	Public Tree Tour - Last of the season

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



# The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Logo design and drawings courtesy of Brenda Gillespie and Kiyoshi Takahashi

2011  
JOIN NOW!!

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.

*Our Letter writing campaign continues,  
YOU still have Time to WRITE !!*

Learn more visit our website [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org)

### PAY or DONATE ONLINE!

You can use a credit card to renew your membership online, [www.rhcs.org/membership.html](http://www.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.*

### The Heritage Trees & Buildings on the Riverview Lands

The Heritage Trees at Riverview Hospital form an irreplaceable asset for the people of BC, complementing the Metro Vancouver Park at Colony Farm, as a regional green space for Greater Vancouver.

Preservation of the site will enhance the quality of life in the Tri-City areas, & beyond.

Join us for one of our guided walking tours. Experience the legacy of BC's first Botanical Garden; a treasure trove of trees from the temperate world, some planted a century ago, allowed to grow to their full potential.

Our walks begin at the front door of the Henry Esson Young Building. Follow Holly Drive, turn uphill onto Oak Crescent then right onto Kalmia.

**We go rain or shine.**

### 2011 Walking Tour Schedule:

August 14 & October 2 at 1 pm

Burke Mountain Naturalists offer Natural Heritage walks at 1pm: August 21

### Treefest 2011 takes place on SATURDAY, September 17, 11am-4pm:

Arborist-led walks, displays, art and music. This free Event is based in & around the Henry Esson Young Building.

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society, P.O. Box 64616, RPO Como Lake, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 7V7  
604-290-9910 trees@rhcs.org www.rhcs.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - FORM

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  Please make cheques payable to;  
Student: \$5  Senior: \$5  Adult: \$10  Family: \$15  Corporate: \$25  Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Yearly membership is due on April 1st

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

AND you are invited to make a \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
DONATION to support the Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Email for 'Newsletters' & notices: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(personal information will NOT be shared with other organizations)

604-290-9910

trees@rhcs.org

www.rhcs.org



## CALL FOR FURTHER ACTION ON THE HISTORIC SITE APPLICATION

Thank you to all our members who responded to our appeal last Fall by sending a personal letter to Premier Campbell. Although we have not yet succeeded in our ultimate goal of gaining support for the Historic Site application, our campaign definitely got the attention of some decision makers. Christy Clark, BC's new premier, formerly represented the riding of Port Moody. Ms. Clark is familiar with the Riverview Lands and is currently setting directions for her government. Please urge her to support the application at this critical time.

### A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION:

The City of Coquitlam has applied to the Federal Government (HSMBC) to have Coquitlam's Riverview Hospital Lands recognized as a National Historic Site. However, the process is stalled because it lacks the approval of the landowners - namely the BC Provincial Government. Please add your personal comments to the letter below and send it to:

**Premier Christy Clark,**  
**PO Box 9041, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1**  
**Email: premier@gov.bc.ca**

A personal letter, a copy to your MLA, or a letter to the press would make your voice even louder. For more information or an e-mail version of this appeal, go to [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org) or call 604-290-9910

Date:

Dear Premier Clark,

Congratulations on your election as BC Liberal party leader and Premier of BC. In this role and at this time, you have an opportunity to make a simple decision that will cost nothing and may result in your leaving a gift of major significance to the people of B.C.

I urge you to support the application now before the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) to have Coquitlam's Riverview Hospital Lands recognized as a National Historic Site. The approval process has been put on hold because the HSMBC has been unable to get support for the application from your government, who represent the landowners.

The property has immense historic value but its heritage features are under-used and deteriorating. The provincial hospital located there will be closed within two years. A decision has to be made. As a National Historic Site, Riverview could still serve the needs of the mentally ill as a research, treatment or education facility. The designation would not rule out revenue generating activities and there would likely be federal funds available for maintenance costs. Most importantly, it would ensure that the property remains in public ownership and accessible to all the people of Canada.

On their behalf I implore you to do the right thing and direct your staff to cooperate immediately with the federal board's request to endorse the application.

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Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_