



## LEAVES Newsletter



### ACTION UPDATE for SPRING 2009

Sue Haberger

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It is election season in BC and there is ominous silence from the Provincial Government about the future of the Riverview Lands. The Liberals do not want this to be an issue in the upcoming campaign but everyone who cares about keeping this property in the public domain, who cares about the needs of the mentally ill and who cares about the fate of Riverview's buildings, landscapes and trees should be prepared to ask hard questions. We have already seen how the current government engages in land use planning for Riverview – by drawing up secret plans for a massive market-housing project that are somehow leaked to the media at critical times, and by ignoring the proposal unanimously supported by all three local municipal councils. We fear that there may be a renewed effort to sell property off for development early in the mandate if they are returned to power.

The citizens of the Tri-Cities have made it clear that we care deeply about this property and about our heritage located there. It is definitely time to make a loud noise and demand a firm commitment about the Riverview Lands from those who want our vote in May. Now is the time to write one more letter to your MLA, your Premier and your local newspaper. Get out to an all-candidates meeting and ask about their positions on Riverview. Make an on-line comment about the issue.

Many people who live outside the Tri-Cities are not aware of the importance of the Lands and do not understand that their future is uncertain. RHCS continues to seek venues for presentations using the excellent video produced by the City of Coquitlam and additional striking images of the trees and buildings. We recently spoke to the Maple Ridge Garden Club and a chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women. The positive responses from the audience are very encouraging. "I had no idea", people say to us, "we can't allow this to be lost! How can we help?"

Thanks to our members who have suggested groups to whom we can offer presentations.

Please keep these suggestions coming – ideally we want to reach out to large groups of people who may not have visited the property and do not know about the current situation. We can tailor the presentation to suit the interests of the audience.

Together we can realize our vision for the Future of Riverview.

### 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.

### AGM Announcement!

**EVERYONE is WELCOME**

Please come join us for Our  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
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.

## THE RIVERVIEW TREE TOURS 2009

Mary Brown

Our walks start again on Sunday March 15th, when we may have another Winter walk, as with the cold weather there is not much budding going on. As I write on February 26th there is fresh snow on the ground. I am happy that many of the smaller broken branches have been cleared up after the winter storms, but the hulk of the Silver Maple, which pulled right out by the roots, and took an Austrian Pine with it, are still lying in the area near Crease Clinic. A full inventory of damage should be done before too long, but again at Riverview we were luckier than some.

This year we have planned for two Children's walks, one in the main tree area, and another led by BMN in the backyard. We have also decided to have an additional Linden walk on Sunday June 28th at 1 pm. Treefest is planned for September 13th. All walks are listed on the website [www.rhcs.org](http://www.rhcs.org)

A few trees from the Serenity Garden have been transplanted to give them more growing space. When the tree plan is finally completed they may be moved again, to achieve the best possible placement.

The 200 name labels we have been awaiting for some time should be going up soon. We have had to make a few adjustments as we lose trees to the storms. The self-guided tour is progressing slowly. We do additional zones gradually, putting two or even three zones together if space allows. We have found it impossible to display them all at once at the Kiosk, so we have been selling folders with as many

lists as are completed, and charging enough to cover the cost of mailing out more as they become ready. They are usually available at our walks. We would be glad to receive feedback if you have any to give us.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist at our walks, either by leading (usually an arborist) or 'hosting', as we call the person(s) who accompany each walk. Usually Society members are there for the regular walks, but we always need more for Treefest, and the walks are a good training ground. Do speak to one of the Society members if you are interested.

We hope that our members will come to support our walks, and bring family and friends with them. It amazes us how many people tell us it is their first time on the grounds, and we are really pleased to welcome them.

**Membership Renewal Due**  
**April 1st, 2009**



Photo by Niall Williams

Camperdown - Spring Crocuses

## NATURE PHOTOS SOUGHT

Fraser Health is looking for outstanding nature-themed photographs to use as the art for four floor-to-ceiling wall murals for Cypress Lodge, a 20-bed mental health facility under construction on the Riverview Hospital grounds.

A photo contest open until May 1 offers the opportunity for anyone in the Fraser Health region to submit their scenic photographs for consideration for these murals. If any RHCS members have some favourite nature-themed photos taken at Riverview, perhaps they would be interested in entering this contest.

Winners of the contest will be invited to attend the Cypress Lodge grand opening event as special guests and will be acknowledged in a variety of ways — including in the new facility.

Photos can be sent to Eliza Mallari at 2nd Floor, 33 Blackberry Drive, New Westminster, B.C., V3L 5S9. For entry criteria, call Mallari at 604-519-8546



## HOW DO YOU PROPAGATE A CAMPERDOWN ELM?

Donna Crosby

If you know the answer to this question I would like to talk to you. I know it has to be grafted which presents a particular challenge. There are eighteen Camperdowns at Riverview and it is the tree that RHCS gets the most enquiries about. Thus it has become somewhat of a symbol of the Riverview site.

As part of Treefest the last few years I have organized a tree sale. Treefest is a community festival at which we celebrate trees and environmental stewardship. The goal of holding a tree sale is to educate the public as to the importance of trees and to encourage them to plant trees to beautify and improve our urban environment. We also try to help people select a tree that is the right one for their yard and conditions. I have propagated contorted willows and pussy willows (which are easy) and have had some success with growing on seedlings that have sprouted at Riverview. However, I have no formal training or background and could really use the advice of someone with some expertise in the field of tree propagation. My intention is to carry on the legacy of the Riverview Trees but to also be the source of trees that are of interest to people. Unfortunately, Douglas Fir or mountain ash (which have great wildlife values) seedlings don't sell well!



Photo by Sue Habeger

Camperdown - Summer

My other challenge with the tree sale is that it is held in September so the trees have to be watered over the summer. We are away quite a bit as we now have a first grandchild who lives in Vernon. I live in the Como Lake and Poirier neighbourhood of Coquitlam. If anyone could help out with this, please let me know.

If you are interested in helping to propagate trees at Riverview, if you have access to trees that would be suitable for the tree sale or could help with watering trees over the summer, please call Donna at 604-939-4064.



Photo by Sue Habeger

Camperdown - Summer

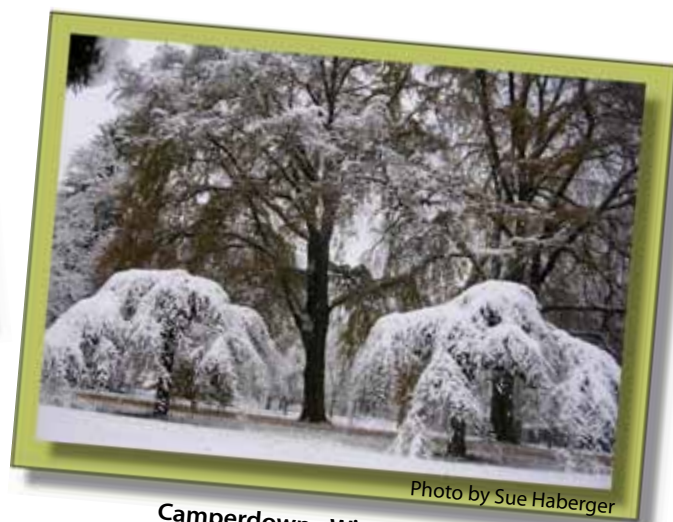


Photo by Sue Habeger

Camperdown - Winter Snow

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
Spring 2009**

There is a list on my desk of All of the Reasons that we can come up with to Preserve the Riverview Lands (there are those that don't like the word 'preserve' and think that the only thing we can preserve is jam!) but...we like the word 'preserve' and we use it often. I'll give you a few examples of reasons on our list.

- We don't know what our future needs will be re: the care of the mentally ill. There will always be a certain percentage of people who will need supportive, institutional level of care.
- Tri-Cities have always accepted the mentally ill among them.
- Cottages are on the site to temporarily house patients.
- It would be difficult to come up with another site which provides such sanctuary.
- When horticultural therapy is once again recognized, we have the 244 acre site waiting. Let's not forget that this is the site of Western Canada's first botanical garden. We have room to include a school with emphasis on arboriculture.
- Riverview's location and size contribute to a balanced ecosystem. There are 7 streams on site, 2 ravines and an old orchard waiting to be restored.
- A 'Providence Farm'- residents could live on site (or in the community) and garden at both Riverview and across the highway at Colony Farm Regional Park.

Are you familiar with Providence Farm on Vancouver Island? It's several hundreds of acres in size, just outside of the city of Duncan, and is an answer to the shortage of resources for people with social, physical and mental needs. As home to one of Canada's few horticultural therapy programs, the farm helps individuals to heal by allowing them the experience of caring for and nurturing the land together.

A Providence Farm concept would work at Riverview and would be an answer to some of our supportive housing shortages, meanwhile Riverview could house and treat the drug dependant mentally ill that are on the streets - right now.

**Maybe you have ideas for Preserving Riverview that we haven't thought of.**



**2009 Tree Walk Schedule**



March 15	Sunday	1 pm	1st walk of the 2009 season
April 19	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
April 26	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk
May 10	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
May 24	Sunday	1 pm	Children's walk
June 14	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
June 21	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk
June 28	Sunday	1 pm	Linden walk 1
July 9	Thursday	7:30 pm	Linden walk 2
July 19	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
August 16	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour
August 23	Sunday	1 pm	BMN Backyard walk
September 13	Sunday	11-4pm	TREEFEST 2009
October 4	Sunday	1 pm	Public Tree Tour

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

Please don't forget to write to your MLA and the Premier and talk about protection and preservation. With elections coming up they need to know how the community feels about this Heritage site that has always been there to serve the most vulnerable amongst us.

*Norma Gillespie*

**THANK YOU FOR RENEWING  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Your Membership dues support many activities by the society including public awareness, presentations, displays, the production of our newsletter etc.

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



April 1st, 2009  
**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.

**PAY or DONATE ONLINE!**

You can 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.

**2009 Walking Tour Schedule:**

March 15, April 19, May 10, June 14, July 19, August 16, & October 4 at 1 pm

Children's walk on May 24 at 1 pm, Linden Walks Sunday June 28 at 1 pm & Thursday July 9 at 7:30 pm

Burke Mountain Naturalists offer Backyard walks at 1pm:

Sundays April 26, August 23 & for the children on June 21

Treefest 2009 takes place on September 13 from 11am-4pm. Arborist-led walks, displays, art and music.

This free Event is based in and around the Henry Esson Young Building.

**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