



Office of the City Clerk

D. Back, City Clerk  
R. Pasch, City Archivist

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## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 07 November 2017

FROM: REBECCA PASCH  
CITY ARCHIVIST

FILE: 2410-20  
Reference: *Community Heritage  
Commission*

SUBJECT:

**COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
2017 SEPTEMBER 07  
RE: HERITAGE BURNABY WEBSITE – ARCHIVES RESPONSE**

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Arising from the last Community Heritage Commission meeting held on 2017 September 07, the Administrative Officer provided the following memo on 2017 September 08:

At the Community Heritage Commission Open meeting held on 2017 September 07, staff provided a presentation and a demonstration of Council records on the Heritage Burnaby website ([www.heritageburnaby.ca](http://www.heritageburnaby.ca)).

Arising from the discussion, Councillor Dhaliwal noted that reference should be made on the website to records from 1892 to 1894 destroyed by fire, to document the beginning of Burnaby's history.

Staff advised that a research was done previously, and there are some newspaper articles from 1891 to 1894 which could be included as records on the website.

In response, last month, Archives staff completed the work of referencing early records through the use of the 'News' item feature, the 'Research' page, the 'Search Results' page, and a new pdf:

- Follow this link (or see attached screenshot) to view the 'News' item on Heritage Burnaby that provides a brief history of the Great Fire in New Westminster and its impact on the City of Burnaby's early records: <https://heritageburnaby.ca/news/explore-the-early-years-of-burnabys-incorporation/>
- Follow this link and click on 'Council Minutes & Council Reports' (or see attached screenshot) to view the description of all Council records on Heritage Burnaby from the

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‘Research’ page, explaining which Council records are missing and why:

<https://heritageburnaby.ca/research/>

- Follow this link (or see attached screenshot) to see what happens when you search for Council minutes under the years 1892 and 1893:  
[https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/list?q=year%3A%5B1892+TO+1893%5D&src\\_facet=Council+Minutes&p=1&ps=50](https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/list?q=year%3A%5B1892+TO+1893%5D&src_facet=Council+Minutes&p=1&ps=50)
- Follow this link to view the pdf (or see attached screenshot) that explains why 1892 and 1893 Council records are unavailable. This pdf is attached to the description for 1892 and 1893 Council minutes:  
[https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/media/Hpo/\\_Data/\\_CouncilMinutesAndReports/Unrestricted/1892-1893-Council.pdf](https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/media/Hpo/_Data/_CouncilMinutesAndReports/Unrestricted/1892-1893-Council.pdf)

The work of including newspaper articles from 1891 to 1894 as records on the website is in the early planning stages as a joint initiative with the Planning Department.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Pasch  
City Archivist

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SEP

### Explore the Early Years of Burnaby's Incorporation

The City Archives is pleased to announce that a current index of all Council minutes and reports is now entirely searchable online. Full-text versions of more than 85% of the documents are available to view, with more being added every day.

Among these records are some of the oldest known surviving records created by the Corporation of Burnaby!

In the early years of Burnaby's incorporation, the Municipal Council met for its weekly meetings in some rather unusual places, like the tram station, local schools, and private homes.

There was no permanent and secure place in Burnaby where official records could be housed. To remedy this situation, in March 1898, the Municipal Council authorized the purchase of a large safe that could hold all the records and would be housed in a municipal building in New Westminster.

Six months later a devastating fire destroyed the entire downtown section of New Westminster. Unfortunately, the minute books from 1892-1893 were destroyed completely and the others were thought to be lost or destroyed as well. In October of 2004 the British Columbia Archives in Victoria miraculously found the 1894-1898 records in their holdings and donated them to the City of Burnaby where they went through immediate conservation treatment.

Now that these records and all actions of Council since are available electronically, anyone with access to a computer can gain a unique window into the actions, decisions, and events that transpired from Burnaby's earliest years and the workings of some of Burnaby's first Mayors and City Council members, through to present day Mayor and Council.

Click on the following links to explore Council records and to listen to early Burnaby resident Eleanore Godwin's recollections of her family's experiences of the New Westminster fire.

### Burnaby's most precious

The City Archives is pleased to announce that a current index of all Council minutes and reports is now entirely searchable online. Full-text...



### Access to ALL open Council Records

We are pleased to announce that a current index of all Council minutes and reports is now entirely searchable online. Full-text versions of ...



### Eileen Dailly

"Burnaby General Hospital's emergency ward, 1972" City of Burnaby Archives. Dailly King Photo ID 430-243

In honour of International Women's...



### Heritage Week: February 13 - 19, 2017

Heritage Week celebrates built heritage across BC and Canada. In 2017, the theme is "My Canada!" in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary...



### Discover Burnaby's heritage with Story Maps

The Charting Change Atlas was first introduced in a poster format in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. It showcases a series of historical m...



### Burnaby Remembers

Burnaby's Honor Rolls are on display at Burnaby City Hall from November 2 through

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## Search all Collections

Search

[Advanced Search](#) | [Help](#)

## Search by Collection

-  Photographs
-  Textual Records
-  Sound Recordings
-  Moving Images
-  Artifacts
-  Publications
-  City Bylaws
-  Council Minutes & Council Reports

### Council Minutes and Council Reports

This collection contains proceedings of City Council, including minutes, reports and public hearings from 1894 to 2014.

Council records from 1892-1893 are unavailable. These records were destroyed in the Great Fire of New Westminster in 1898.

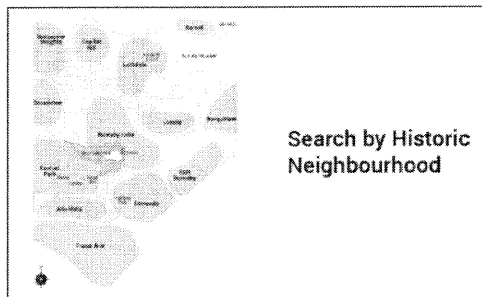
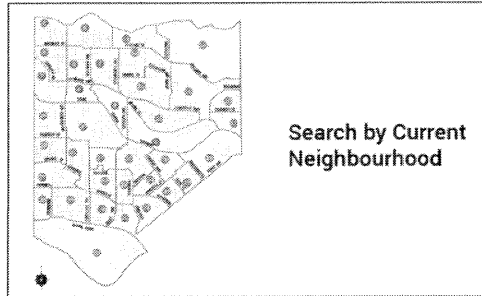
Council minutes and proceedings from 2015 to present are available on the City of Burnaby website.

Repositories: CBA, OCC

Search

-  Landmark Descriptions
-  Building Plans/Permits

## Search by Neighbourhood



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PERSONAL HISTORY • COLLECTIVE MEMORY

RESEARCH

Year Search • Search Results

year[1892 TO 1893]

year[1892 TO 1893] Council Minutes

Advanced Search | Help

Print PDF

Sorted by Relevance Expand All

Narrow By

Repository

Type/Format

Date

Provenance

Online Media Type

2 records - page 1 of 1.

1892 Regular Council Minutes

Repository: City of Burnaby Archives

Meeting Date: 1892

Type/Format: Council - Regular Council Minutes

Collection/Fonds: City Council and Office of the City Clerk fonds

MORE DETAIL

Add to List

1 Document

Permalink

1893 Regular Council Minutes

Repository: City of Burnaby Archives

Meeting Date: 1893

Type/Format: Council - Regular Council Minutes

Collection/Fonds: City Council and Office of the City Clerk fonds

MORE DETAIL

Add to List

1 Document

Permalink

Heritage Burnaby  
PERSONAL HISTORY • COLLECTIVE MEMORY

**The City of Burnaby Archives does not hold Council records for 1892-1893. The 24-Mar-1894 Council minutes are the earliest Council records in our holdings.**

In the early years of Burnaby's incorporation, the Municipal council met for its weekly meetings in some rather unusual places, like the Tram Station, local schools and private homes.

There was no permanent and secure place in Burnaby where official records could be housed. To remedy this situation, in March 1898, the Municipal Council authorized the purchase of a large safe that could hold all the records and would be housed in a municipal building in New Westminster.

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