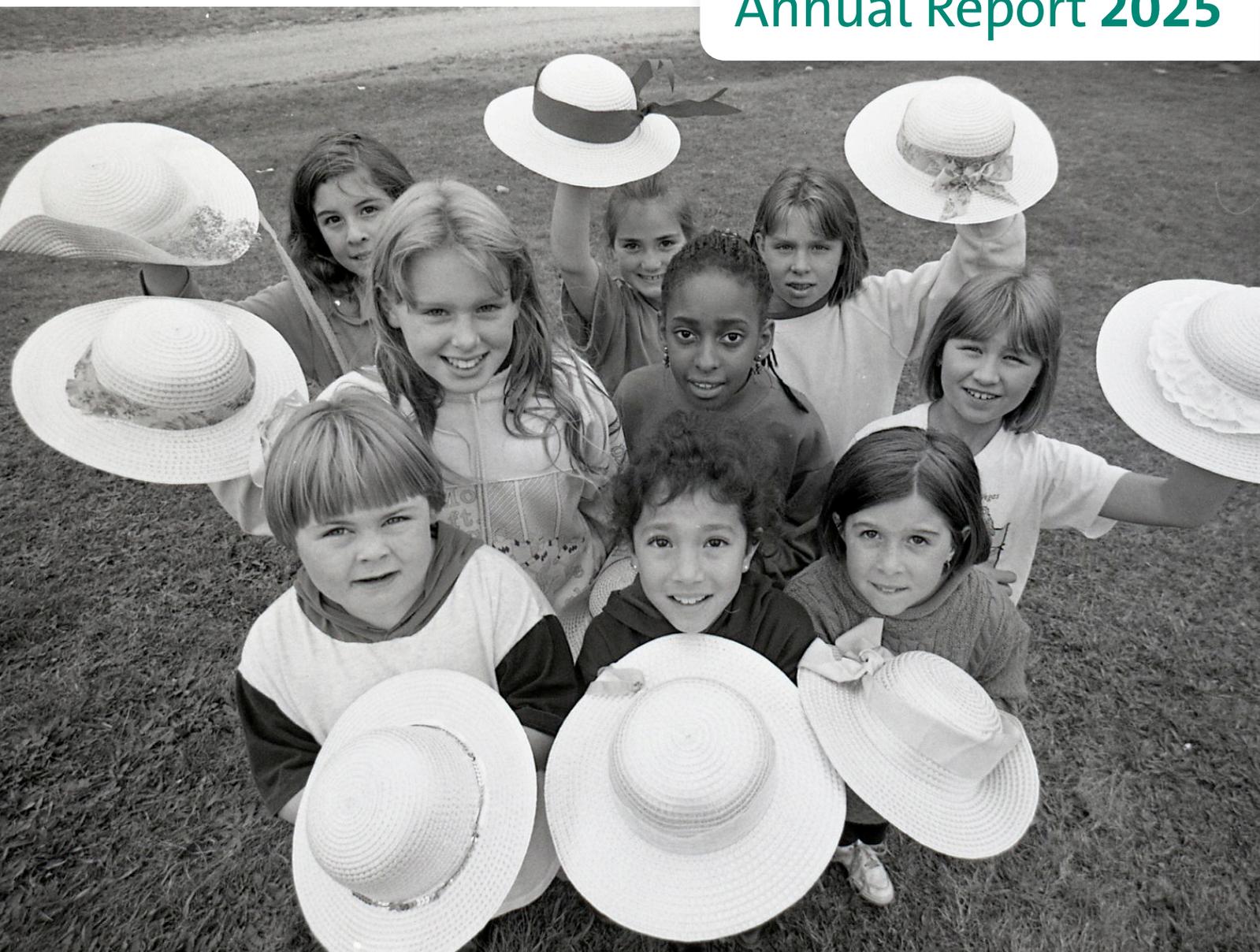


*City of Coquitlam*

# ARCHIVES

Annual Report 2025



Coquitlam



*We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that the name Coquitlam was derived from the hən̓q̓əmiḥə́m (HUN-kuh-MEE-num) word kwikwə́łəm (kwee-KWET-lum) meaning "Red Fish Up the River". The City is honoured to be located on the kwikwə́łəm traditional and ancestral lands, including those parts that were historically shared with the ḡícáý (kat-zee), and other Coast Salish Peoples.*

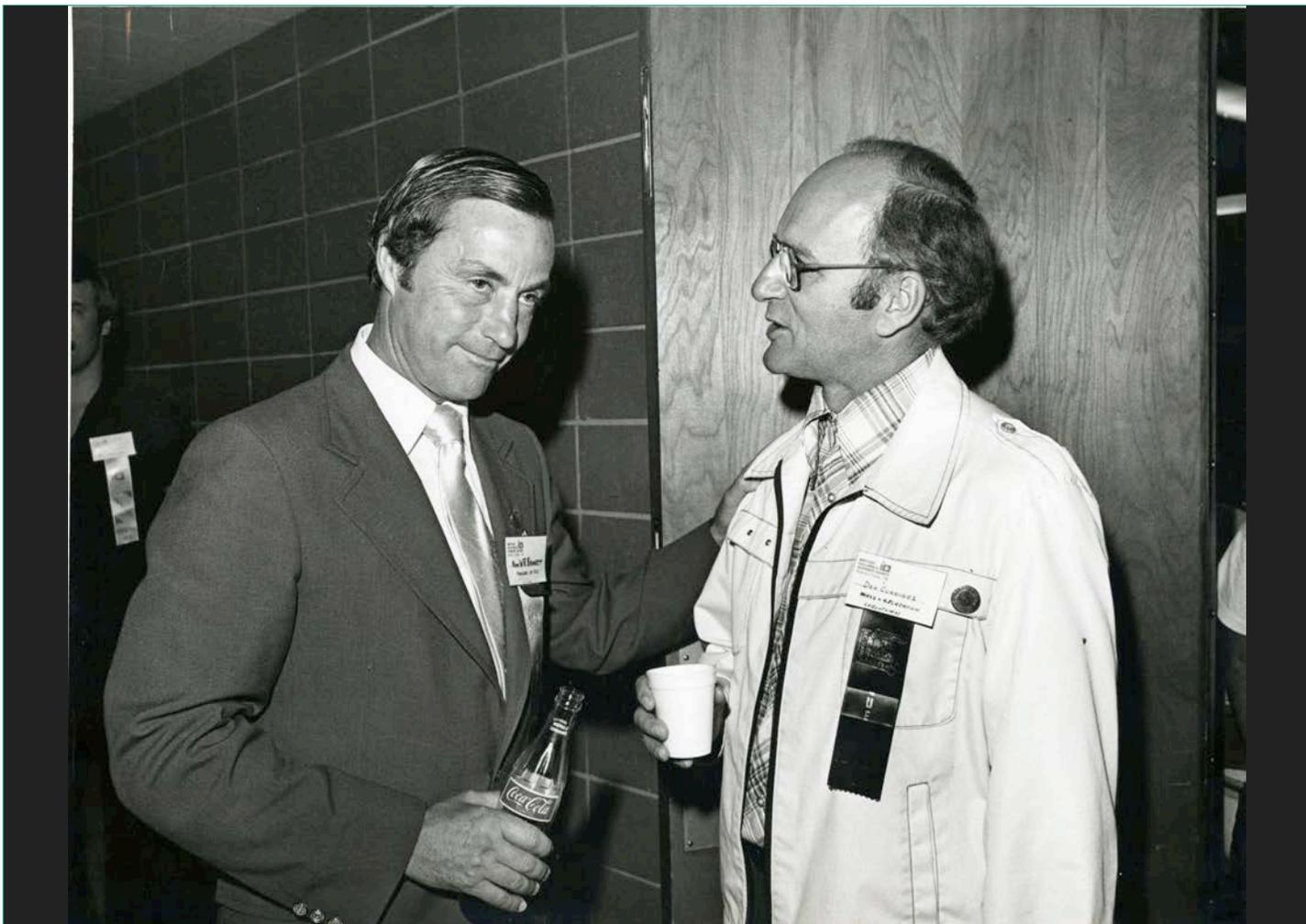
A hand holding a magnifying glass over a film strip with historical photos. The film strip shows various scenes, including a car and a building. The background is a light, textured surface.

*City of Coquitlam*

# ARCHIVES

Annual Report 2025

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**Cover:**  
Colleen Mujkwa surrounded by her classmates as she is going to Zimbabwe. Ranch Park Kids Place at 2701 Spurway Ave. (F13.1917)

**Above:**  
Don Cunnings with Premier Bill Bennett at the 1978 Summer Games in Penticton, B.C. (F12.534)

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## City of Coquitlam Archives Team

**Above:** Archival  
Vault – City  
Archives

**City Archivist:** Jamie Sanford

**Archives and Records Officers:** Leah Rae (Archives Focus)

Kristin Simmons (Records Focus)

The City of Coquitlam Archives was founded in 2013, with the mandate to preserve and make accessible the records of enduring value of the City of Coquitlam and its predecessor administrative bodies. The Archives also acquires, preserves, and makes accessible the records of businesses, organizations, and private individuals that are of significance to the municipality and deemed worthy of long-term preservation. Coquitlam Archives staff continue to ensure these records are preserved so that future researchers, historians, or anyone interested in the story of Coquitlam can access these valuable community resources.

# Introduction

The City of Coquitlam Archives had another successful year, continuing to grow its collection in service to the community. The Archives Annual Report contains highlights and accomplishments of the various activities and outreach that have been accomplished each year.

We reached the significant milestone of having 10,000 digitized photos in the Archives database, Quest. And, for the first time, the Archives hosted two student interns to assist with the ongoing, multi-year project to digitize the Tri-City News' negatives. The newspaper, established in 1985 as a weekly printed newspaper, served the Tri-Cities region of British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

Throughout 2025, the Archives acquired new and thought-provoking records from the City as well as from the community as our permanent holdings continued to expand at a significant rate. The Archives vault is beginning to reach capacity with each passing year.

Outreach activities included drop-in hours, a physical exhibit on Fraser Mills, a series of popular online exhibits highlighting the records in our holdings, as well as social media posts focused on Archives projects and our community engagement.

All of this vital work ensures that the City of Coquitlam's documentary heritage is preserved and made accessible for present and future generations.

**This page:**  
Archives Front Door on  
Pinetree Way

# Exhibits



**Top left:** John Cashore  
MLA and Pauline  
Jewett MP, (F59.009)

**Top right:** Postcard of  
Proposed Municipal  
Hall District of  
Coquitlam, (C25-  
IT.0018)

**Bottom left:** Eric  
Dlugos posing with  
bag and paper on his  
paper route, 1988  
(F13.730)

## Online Exhibits

Coquitlam Archives continued with its always-popular online exhibits in 2025 to showcase the City's holdings and explore and celebrate various aspects of Coquitlam's history. The exhibits were highlighted on the City's social media channels and were featured in the Tri-City News and Tri-Cities Dispatch, both local, online news publications.

The first online exhibit of the year: *Extra, Extra, Read All About It: Coquitlam's Newspaper History* was prepared by Archives and Records Officer, Kristin Simmons. The timely exhibit discussed the vast array of newspapers that have existed in the Tri-Cities and how technology has changed how we view them.

The second exhibit of the year, *Voices for Coquitlam: Political Service Throughout the Year* was prepared by Archives and Records Officer Leah Rae. The web exhibit focused on four recent donations from prominent politicians who have served Coquitlam from the 70s through to the mid-2000s.

The final exhibit of the year, *Donating Community Records to the City of Coquitlam Archives* was prepared by City Archivist, Jamie Sanford. The exhibit explored the myriad ways community records' donations find their way to the City Archives, and also offered advice on how best to prepare potential donations.



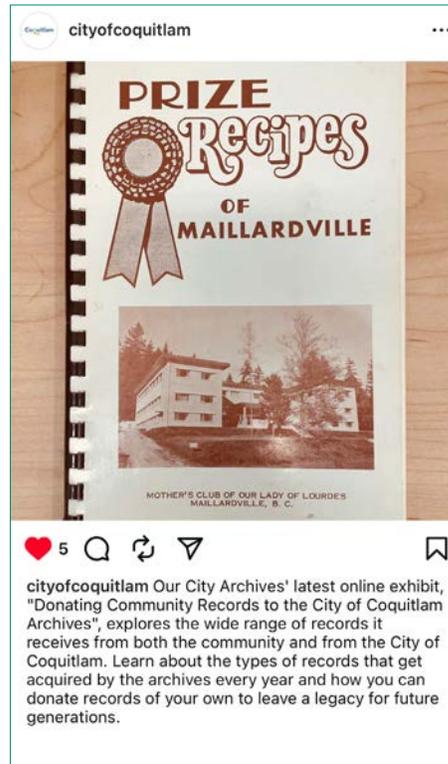
**Top:** Markhus Fahrner of Coquitlam Heritage – in front of the Fraser Mills Exhibit

## Physical Exhibits

In October, the City Archives collaborated with Coquitlam Heritage on the exhibit, *Fraser Mills*. The exhibit tells the fascinating story of the diverse workers and residents of Fraser Mills featuring text, photos, as well as artifacts from the Coquitlam Heritage Society. The exhibit will be on display at the Archives on Pinetree Way until the spring of 2026, so please drop by for a visit.

# Outreach

## Social Media



**Top left to right:**  
Social media posts:

- Extra, Extra, Read all about it: Coquitlam's Newspaper History
- Donating community records



**Bottom left to right:**  
Social media posts:

- Tri City News digitization – Summer
- Tri City News digitization – Spring



This year, Archives was again featured on the City's social media channels to great effect. Posts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn highlighted the City's archival holdings, engaging the public and City staff.

## Outreach

**Right:** Leah Rae staffing the booth at the annual Canada Day celebrations at Lafarge Lake



### Tours and Events

- In March, the City Archivist provided a tour of the Archives for members of the Burke Mountain Naturalists.
- In the spring, the City Archivist provided tours for UBC Ischool students.
- In July, Archives staff hosted a booth at the annual Canada Day Celebrations at Lafarge Lake.



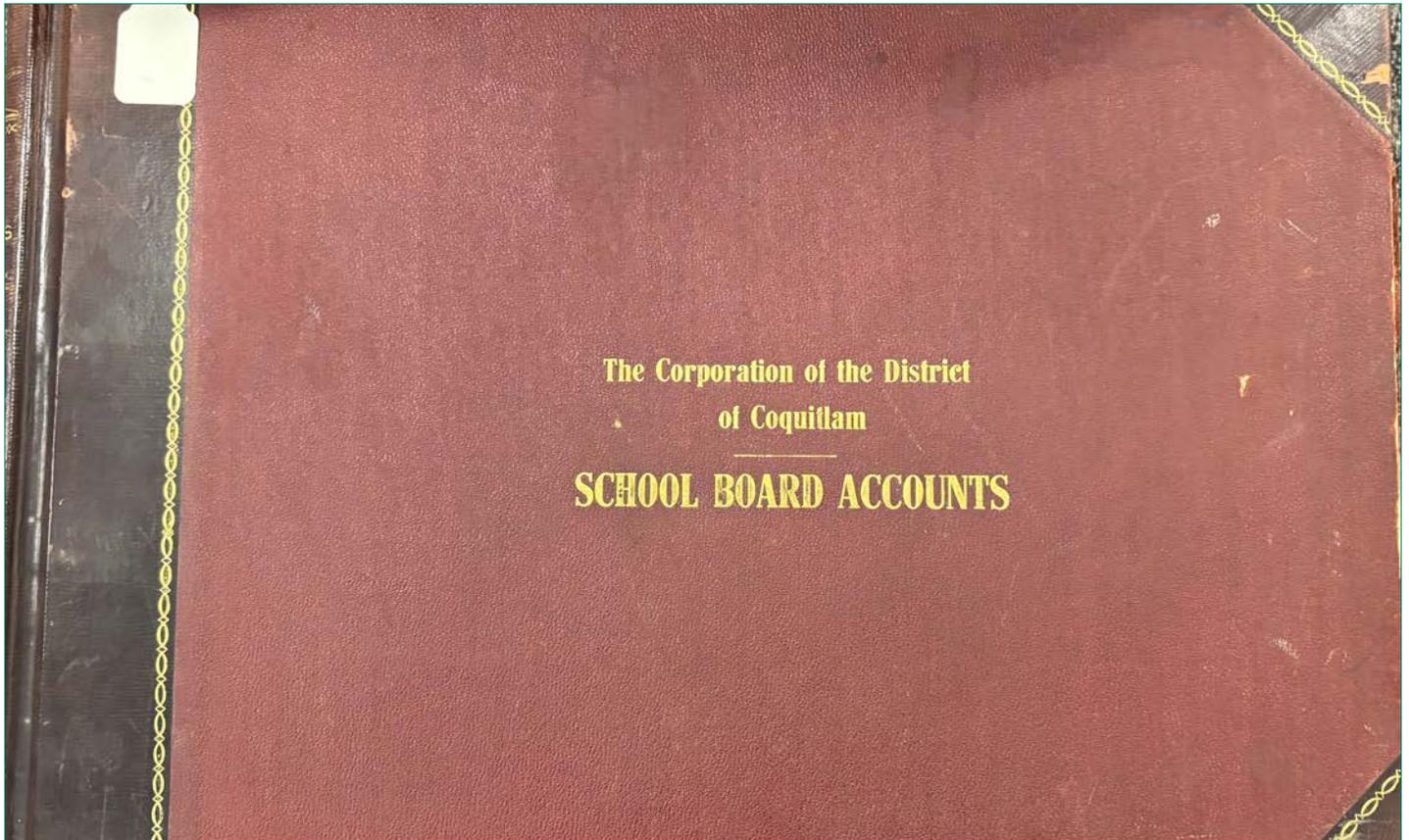
**Left:** Mary Mackin tugboat MH.2004.19.2, used in the documentary *A Painted Life of E.J. Hughes*

## Archival Collections in the Community

Coquitlam’s archival collections are increasingly in-demand throughout the community, with usage permissions received by an array of community partners. Below is a selection of some of these projects.

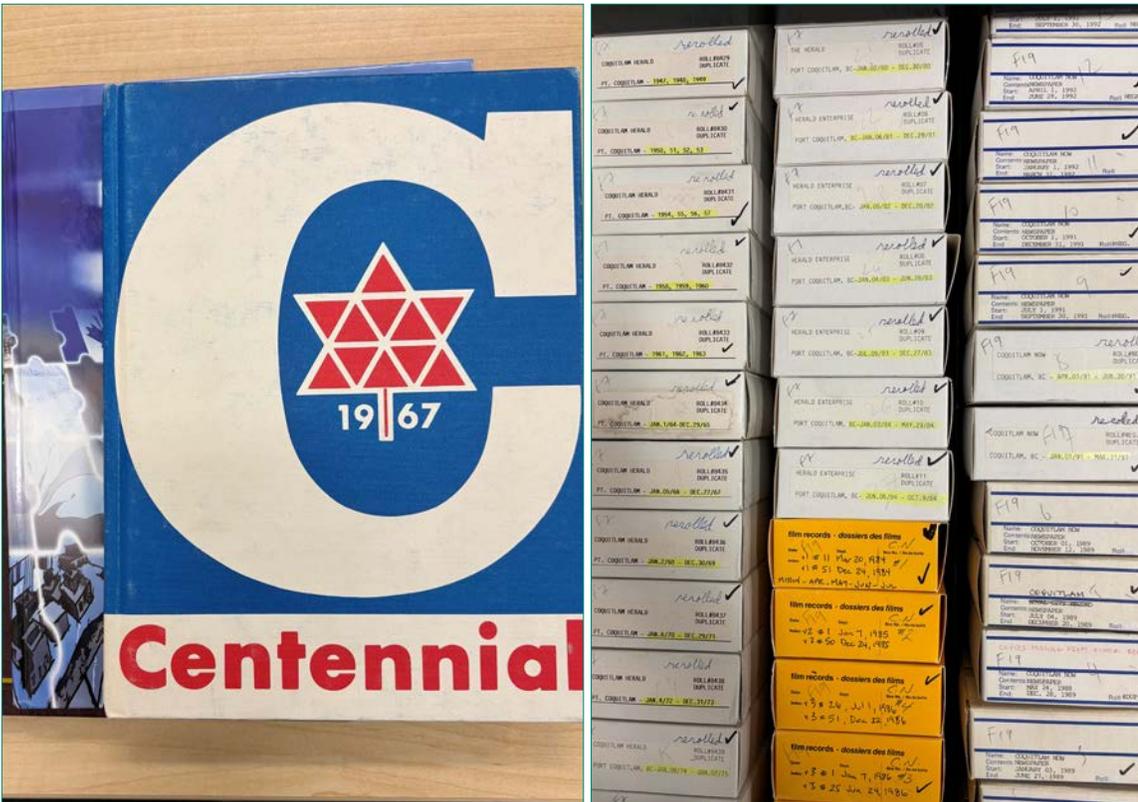
- Coquitlam Heritage are frequent users of the Archives, and this year used numerous archival photographs in several exhibits, on social media, and on their website.
- Archival photographs were used in public art work installations around the city.
- Archival photographs were used in an art installation located at Fraser Health.
- An archival photograph was used in a documentary, “The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes,” about the art and life of painter E.J. Hughes
- Archival photographs were used by the Tri-Cities Dispatch on a feature on the history of Coquitlam Centre.
- Archival photographs were used in a presentation to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Pinecone Burke Provincial Park.
- Archival photographs were requested to be displayed at a local restaurant, the Coquitlam Grill.
- Tri-City News reporters used the Archives’ newspaper collections throughout the year for the popular weekly, *Headlines from the Past*, series until its closure in April.
- Archival photographs were used in an exhibit at the Museum of Vancouver.
- Archival photographs featured in several Tri-Cities Dispatch articles.

# Acquisition Highlights



## Top: School Ledger

- **Accrual to the Hoy Scott Watershed Society fonds**  
The Archives was pleased to receive its annual donation of the Society's minutes (2023).
- **Accrual to the Craig Hodge fonds**  
The Archives was happy to receive another donation from Councillor Craig Hodge. The accrual consisted of copies of historic Coquitlam newspapers: the Sunday News, The News and the Herald.
- **Accrual to the School District 43 Collection**  
The Archives was happy to receive a donation from Coquitlam School District 43. The donation consisted of school ledger documenting schools from 1930-1945.
- **Accrual to the Canadian Federation of University Women CFUW fonds (Coquitlam branch)**  
The Archives received a final donation of minutes and correspondence from the CFUW.

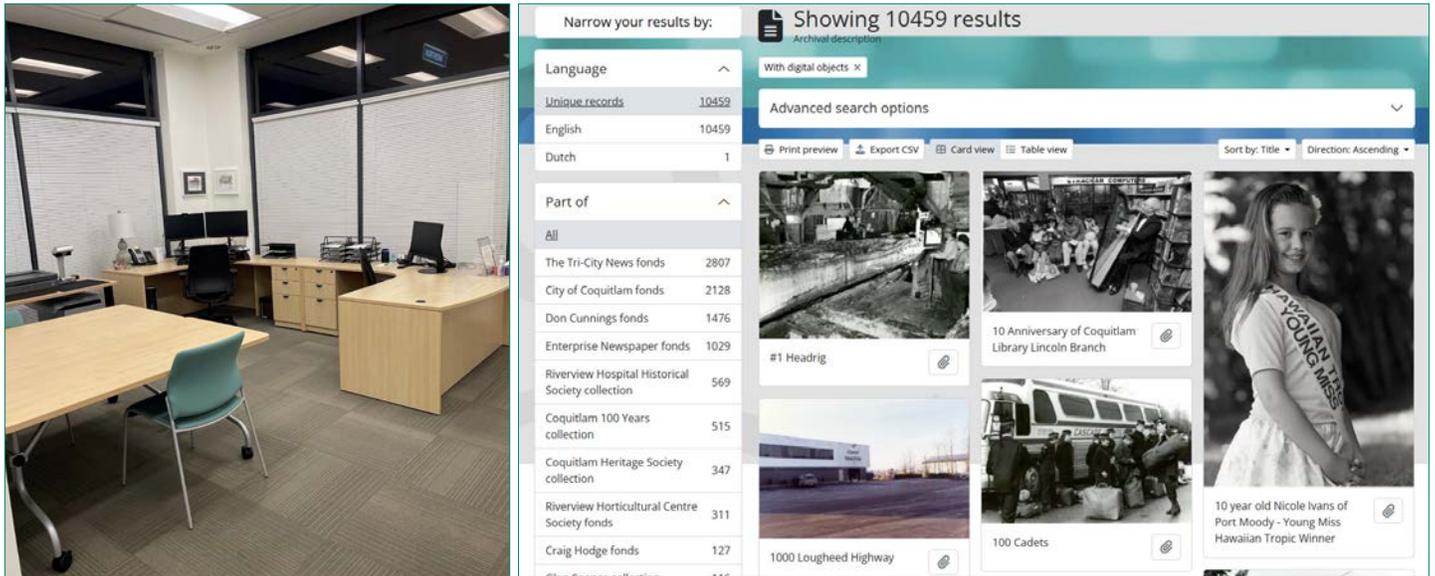


**Left:** School Yearbooks

**Right:** Microfilm

- Annotated Bylaws**  
 Archives staff facilitated a large transfer of annotated zoning bylaws and map books from the City of Coquitlam’s Planning and Development Department. These vital records have been digitized and will be available in the Archives database, Quest, in 2026.
- Accrual to Coquitlam Public Library Collection**  
 The Archives was happy to accept a large donation from the Coquitlam Public Library. The donation Accessions consists of 52 Microfilm Reels. These include the Coquitlam Herald, Coquitlam Now, and Coquitlam Times.
- School Yearbooks**  
 The Archives accepted a donation of school yearbooks/annuals from Gleneagle Secondary School, Montgomery High School and Centennial Secondary School.
- Planning and Development Slides and Microfiche**  
 The Archives accepted a large transfer of microfiche and 35mm slides from the City’s Planning and Development Department. This material has been digitized and is available in Quest.

# Reference Services



**Left:** Archives Office

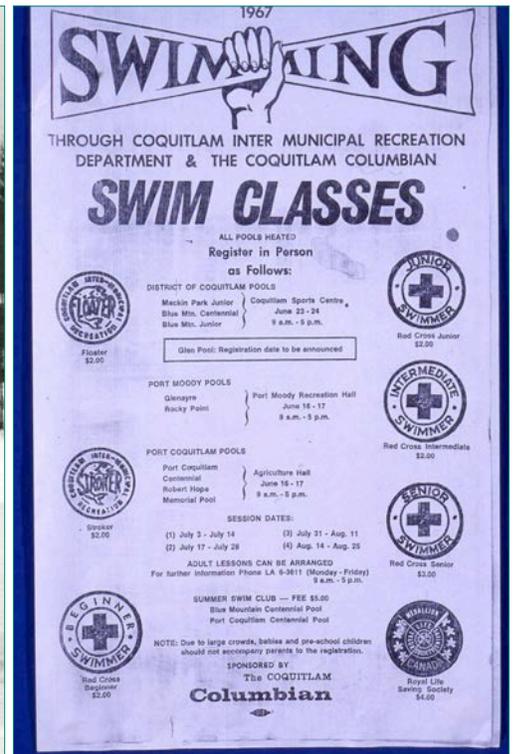
**Right:** Quest

The City of Coquitlam Archives provides online access to digital content and descriptions of holdings through Quest, the Archives online search portal. New content is continually being added as the Archives' holdings grow.

In 2025 Quest traffic increased by 2%. Since its inception in 2014, Quest has been viewed by 116,299 total users. In 2025, Quest received 30,073 views from users whose average engagement time was 38 seconds per session. Apart from Canada, users came from the United States, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Ireland, Philippines, Australia and Japan.

Also in 2025, members of the public and City staff made 150 reference requests and the Archives welcomed 41 researchers to review archival material. The Archives was open for drop-ins Tuesdays to Thursdays 12 to 4 p.m.

# Arrangement and Description



2025 was a busy year for donations—13 separate accessions were received and 6,200 archival descriptions were added to Quest.

Arrangement and description is a core activity for the Archives. It is the stage where the materials are brought under intellectual and physical control for the purposes of providing future access. This involves determining appropriate levels of description, establishing intellectual arrangement and creating finding aids.

The following funds and collections were arranged and described in 2025 and are available in Quest:

- Accrual to the Canadian Federation of University women fonds (Coquitlam branch)
- Accrual to the Coquitlam Public Library Collection
- Accrual to the Craig Hodge fonds
- Accrual to the Hoy Scott Watershed fonds – Annual Minutes
- Don Cunnings fonds
- Fiona McQuarrie Collection
- Multiple accruals to the City of Coquitlam fonds including records from the Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Department, the Planning and Development Department, and the City Clerk's Office Division
- Tri-City Now fonds – print photographs

**Left:** Zamboni on Como Lake, Don Cunning fonds F12.114

**Right:** Swim Program, Don Cunning fonds F12.843

# Digitization



**Top-Left:** Rebecca Kirkham digitizing negatives from the Tri-City News fonds

**Bottom-Left:** Grace Wang digitizing negatives from the Tri-City News fonds

**Top-Right:** Deer on the Riverview Grounds, Riverview Horticultural Society, F54.008(F59.08)

**Bottom-Right:** Martial arts demonstration at the Tri-City Children's Festival at Mundy Park, 1994, F13-2968

Throughout 2025, staff continued to digitize textual records and photographs from the holdings and upload to Quest so they are accessible for researchers wherever they are around the world.

For the first time, the Archives secured two interns in a year. In January, the Archives hosted Rebecca Kirkham a Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies student from UBC Ischool. In May, we welcomed Grace Wang, a student from the Library and Technology program at Langara College. With Archives staff assistance, the interns rehoused and described 800, 35mm negatives from the Tri-City News fonds. This project is an ongoing multi-year effort to digitize the remaining negatives.

Records from the following collections and fonds were digitized in 2025:

- Champagne Family fonds
- City of Coquitlam fonds various series, Deputy Fire Chief Portraits, Planning and Development, Parks Development and Cultural
- Coquitlam Foundation fonds
- Coquitlam Public Library Collection
- Don Buchanan fonds
- Don Cuning fonds
- Eagle Ridge Residents' Association fonds
- Finn Donnelly fonds
- Glen Spence Collection
- May Queen Collection
- Riverview Horticultural Society fonds
- Shyla Seller fonds
- Tri City Branch Co-operative Collection
- Tri-City News fonds

# Plans for 2026

## Acquisitions

- Continuing to work with community groups to promote the transfer of diverse archival records
- Continuing to work with the Legislative Services Department to identify and transfer Coquitlam City records with archival value

## Preservation

- Identifying and digitizing collections with preservation concerns
- Assessing and addressing the conservation needs of the holdings

## Access

- Digitizing records and making them available online via Quest
- Working with students on digitization projects
- Continuing to accession new donations
- Continuing to provide reference services to the public and City of Coquitlam staff
- Continuing to arrange and describe archival holdings

## Outreach

- Producing online exhibits that highlight the Archives' work and archival collections
- Continuing and further enhancing the Archives' social media presence
- Pursuing meaningful outreach projects with diverse community partners

F20-S03-F01  
Columbian Newspaper photographs  
F01 - Westwood Racetrack





# Coquitlam

City of Coquitlam Archives

1171 Pinetree Way  
Coquitlam, B.C., V3B 7N2

     | [coquitlam.ca/CityArchives](https://coquitlam.ca/CityArchives)