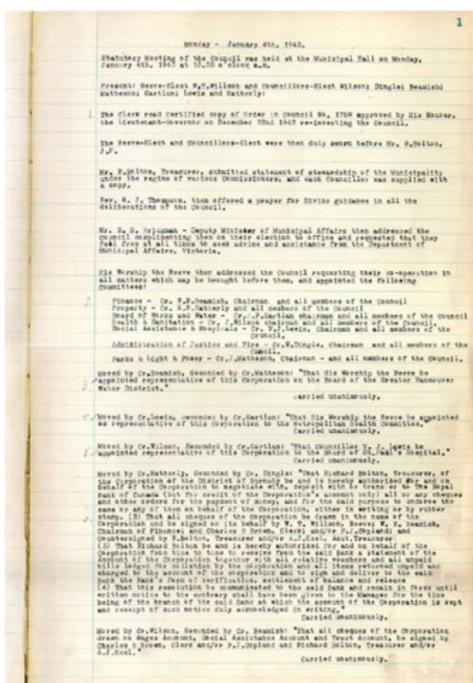


Burnaby's Documentary Heritage

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF RECORD KEEPING AND REFLECTION

Modern Burnaby

1943-Present



Minutes of the first meeting of the re-invested Council, January 4, 1943. (City of Burnaby Archives)



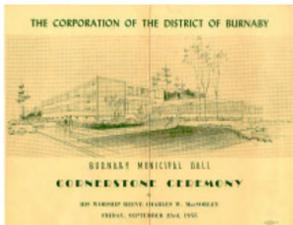
Newspaper clipping featuring Charles Brown, Municipal Clerk, referring to files under an umbrella due to the leaky roof of the old hall, January [1953]. (City of Burnaby Archives)



Clerks in the Municipal Treasury Department pose with records in front of water-stained walls at the old Municipal Hall, 1952. This photograph was used to promote the need for a new municipal hall. (Burnaby Community Archives)



Joyce Scambler, of the Building Department, consults records stored in less-than-ideal conditions in the attic of the old Municipal Hall, 1952. (Burnaby Community Archives)



Pamphlet for the cornerstone ceremony for the new Municipal Hall, September 23, 1955. (City of Burnaby Archives)



Political and civic involvement in the affairs of the municipality returned with the reintroduction of an elected Council in 1943. At the close of World War II, prosperity returned and Burnaby boomed. With its abundance of land and its ideal location, Burnaby soon grew to become the largest district municipality in the province.

Once again, Burnaby's administration was faced with problems of overcrowding as new departments, staff, and their records competed for space in the small brick hall. The debate to build a new municipal hall began with North Burnaby residents' opposition to rebuilding at the old location in South Burnaby. In order to resolve the issue, Council decided to relocate to the geographic center of the district. As a result, a third, modern municipal hall was constructed at Deer Lake, and opened in 1956.

The drive towards modernization brought improved service to all residents of Burnaby. It also resulted in the loss of many archival and historic records as many departments purged their records prior to moving into the new municipal hall. Fortunately, Council recognized the historic value of the remaining municipal records and entrusted many of them to the Simon Fraser University Archives in 1973.

When city status was achieved during Burnaby's Centennial in 1992, an interest in preserving our documentary heritage spurred the initial development of a civic archives program. The return of the records held at SFU marked the first stage of this process. From 1994 until 2001, these records were stored at the Burnaby Village Museum, where the Burnaby Historical Society's community archives continue to be held.



Burnaby's third Municipal Hall, 1956. This sleek, modern building announced a new era of modernity for Burnaby. In 1963, two additional floors were added to complete the building. (Burnaby Community Archives)



Booklet for the official opening of Burnaby's third Municipal Hall, June 22, 1956. (City of Burnaby Archives)